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# DC Gazette

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CATALOG  
P.2

VOL VIII Nr. 4

APRIL 1977

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# EARLY WARNINGS

# THE CITY

THE DC FEDERATION OF CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, THE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN, THE COMMITTEE OF 100 and the ARLINGTON COALITION ON TRANSPORTATION, among others, have filed suit against Brock Adams, the federal freeway pharoah, for barging ahead on I-66. These folks are fighting a last ditch effort against the destruction of a part of Arlington and are helping DCers by trying to keep the freeway wolf from our door (once I-66 is built the pressure will grow for another bridge across the Potomac and a crosstown expressway). To help in this fight, send a check to ACT, PO Box 7027, Arlington, Va. 22207.

THE LOCAL 6 LEGAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE has outlined a series of events designed to build support for the fifteen striking Post pressmen slated to go on trial April 18. Charges against the pressmen stem from incidents which happened when the union went on strike on October 1, 1975.

An endorsers list of over 35 prominent local and national figures has also been released by the defense committee. Endorsers include Congressman John Conyers; William Goodman, president of the National Lawyers Guild; Geraldine Boykin, president of the DC Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Robert E. Petersen, president of the Greater Washington Central Labor Council; Sid Brooks, president of the DC American Postal Workers Union; Sara Nelson, National Coordinator NOW Labor Task Force; Dr. Benjamin Spock; William Simons, vice president American Federation of Teachers; and author Studs Terkel.

Picketing at the Washington Post continues and a demonstration and march around the Post is scheduled for April 16.

SMITHSONIAN museums on the National Mall have begun new tourist season hours of 10 am to 9 pm, seven days a week. The hours will continue

DC GAZETTE

1739 Connecticut Ave NW (#2)  
DC 20009  
232-5544

THE DC GAZETTE is published monthly except during the summer. Our deadline is the second Tuesday of the month except for ads which should be submitted by the third Tuesday. The Gazette welcomes short articles but cannot afford to pay for them at this time. The Gazette is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate and uses the services of Liberation News Service, Zodiac News Service, Pacific News Service, College Press Service and Community Press Features. The Gazette is available by mail for \$6 a year. Single copies are 50¢ if mailed and 25¢ at select-ed newsstands.

EDITOR: Sam Smith  
ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Anne Chase  
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11 MON		2:30*	7:30*
12 TUES		2:30*	7:30*
13 WED.		2:30*	7:30*
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The Gazette is pleased to announce publication of the 6th annual edition of the Gazette Guide. This guide is one of the most comprehensive listings of national activist organizations and national & regional alternative publications available. Also included are Washington DC activist organizations and media. This very useful publication is our best seller and costs only \$2.50.

## Washington

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through Labor Day, September 5. They do not include the following museums which will continue to close at 5:30 pm: National Portrait Gallery, National Collection of Fine Arts, Renwick Gallery, Freer Gallery of Art.

IT'S BEEN 23 years since William O Douglas and friends walked the C & O Canal to illustrate to freeway advocates such as the Post the importance of saving it. This year's C & O hike commemorates the dedication of the canal in honor of Douglas and will take place on April 30. There are actually two hikes. The longer one involves a 12 1/2 mile walk. Info: 229-6147. The shorter hike is 8 1/2 miles. Info: 544-8662 (6-p pm or all day weekends).

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE will sponsor 150 courses and workshops at Glen Echo Park this spring, and registration is now going on for the low-cost day and evening classes in woodworking, ceramics, textiles, painting, photography, sculpture, writing mime, clogging, music, environmental awareness and more. Info: 492-6282.

THE AQUATICS PROGRAM of the DC Department of Recreation has begun testing lifeguards for employment in its 1977 summer program.

The test is being given each Tuesday and Thursday at 7 pm and Saturday at noon at the Capitol East Natatorium located at 635 North Carolina Ave, SE. Info: 673-7722 or 742-4495.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for a Project Transition, started by the Bureau of Rehabilitation of the National Capital Area. Volunteers visit women at Women's Detention Center in Washington to help them prepare for their release. Volunteers will also visit the families of inmates soon to be released, in an effort to prepare family members for the readjustment period and providing them with information about, and referral to, community resources. Info: Mona Asiner, Bureau of Rehabilitation, 666 11th Street, NW, DC 20001, 637-7932.

THE DC CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS need blood program volunteers to work on the bloodmobiles which go out to government agencies, offices, schools, stores, etc., to collect blood for the Washington regional blood program. Bloodmobiles are usually open in the daytime for about six hours. Info: Mrs. Wells or Mrs. Catucci at 857-3356, or come to the Blood Program Volunteer Office, Room 423, at 2025 E Street, NW.

THE DC PUBLIC LIBRARY reports that tapes and tape decks, records and record players are available for the blind and handicapped. Those interested in getting this service may call Special Services, 727-2142.

"IN THE WORKS" is a newsletter for local people in the arts. For a sample copy write Review, ITW, 2269 Cathedral Ave, NW, DC 20008

THE POTOMAC AREA COUNCIL OF AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS now offers bike tour and trail guides, resource maps and directories for trip planning from Nova Scotia to California and Mexico to Alaska. Reference and research materials include: cycle touring books and briefers; bike repair guides and manuals; USDI, DOT, and regional county studies of trail management, maintenance, and utilization concepts; the programs and bulletins of such nation-

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PRINCETON government summer interns need reasonably inexpensive accomodations mid June to end August. Send listings - location, price, space available, whom to contact, etc., to Newell Brown, Director, Career Services, Clio Hall, Princeton, NJ 08540.

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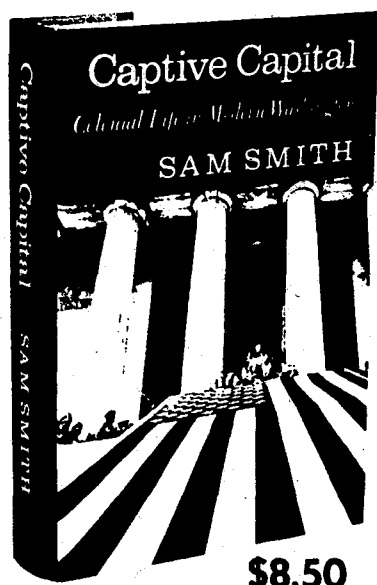
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# GAZETTE CATALOG

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in Modern Washington*

Here's what people have been saying about Gazette editor Sam Smith's book about local Washington:

Could be an excellent gift for any friend just moving to town. Or any friend who has managed to live here for sometime without learning anything about Washington. . . . Sam Smith's is one of the few efforts I have seen that manages to deal with black people and white people without insulting either. — WILLIAM RASPBERRY, WASHINGTON POST

It is absolutely. 'must' reading for all who are interested in this city's history, its political or private life — JAMES TINNEY, WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

Smith's book is a joy to read — ROBERT CASSIDY, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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**BLACK GUIDE TO WASHINGTON.** History, shops, restaurants, nightspots, museums, hotels, sightseeing, churches, tours. \$2.

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**THE POTOMAC.** Frederick Gutheim's fine book on the history of the Potomac River Valley will broaden your understanding of the area in which you live. \$4.95.

al organizations as League of American Wheelmen, American Youth Hostels, Bikecentennial, and the Appalachian Trail Conference; and more. Write or visit the Potomac Area Council, 1520 16th NW, DC 20036.

**MAURICE WILLIAMS** of WHUR, the fine young reporter killed in the recent seige, is being remembered in a way that makes sense: a scholarship fund for other young reporters has been established in his name. Contributions can be sent to the Maurice Williams Scholarship Fund, c/o WHUR, 2400 4th St, NW, DC 20001

WASHINGTON DC offers more internship opportunities than any other city in the nation. That news from the National Center for Public Service Internship Programs which has just published the Directory of Washington Internships.

The directory, now available, describes 120 internships and also includes information about the Federal College Work Study Program, application and resume procedures and resource information. Categories covered include arts and humanities, conservation and environment, education, legal affairs, women's organizations, international relations, urban policy, socialchange, media and communications and public policy.

The directory is available from the National Center for Public Service Internships, 1735 Eye St, NW, Suite 601, DC 20006 and the price is six dollars, prepaid, for non-members.

**MARKET DAY**, Friendship House's annual festival and fair, will take place on May 1 from noon to six on Market Row, 7th & Penna. Ave. SE. Activities include a bike raffle, a sidewalk cafe, craft sales, children's games and a white elephant sale. INFO: Bette Callet, 547-3880.

## THE NATION

"WE are looking for the names of young people who have been improperly administered drugs while at a juvenile institution and who are willing to talk about their experiences," writes the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The project is hoping to file lawsuits in a series of states to halt what they say is becoming a widespread practice in some areas. The group is also looking for "the names of institutions where drugs are being improperly administered, and the names of correctional staff who are willing to share with us their knowledge of institutional drug abuse."

Information can be sent to: National Prison Project, ACLU, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, NW, DC 20036. 202-331-0500.

THERE will be a conference on "New Directions in State and Local Tax Reform" in Washington April 15-17 sponsored by the Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies. Info: CASLPP, 1901 Que NW, DC 20009 (202-234-9382).

THE fifth national meeting of the National Association of Neighborhoods will be hosted and sponsored by the Pittsburgh Neighborhood Alliance (PNA) during the week-end of April 22-24. The meeting will be held at the Brashear Center, 2005 Sarah Street, in Southside Pittsburgh beginning at 12:30 pm, Friday,

MORE GOOD BOOKS FROM THE GAZETTE

**ANNOTATED GUIDE TO THE GAZETTE. VOL I-III.** Mimi Upmeyer has begun indexing the Gazette and has completed the first three volumes. Available at \$3.50.

**WALKING TOURS OF WASHINGTON.** We think this is one of the best of the walking guides and it only costs \$1.50.

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It is that time after dinner but before bed in the dear languorous past of our summers on the stoop. Everybody can come out: Kenny, Don, Janet, Charlie, but especially the leader, Fred Ferretti, with his uncanny knack of remembering exactly where first base was in stickball (the driver's door of the 1935 Packard), his reverence for the Heinie Manush baseball flipping card, his recognition of the "spal-deen" as the one and only genuine and true playing ball.

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7

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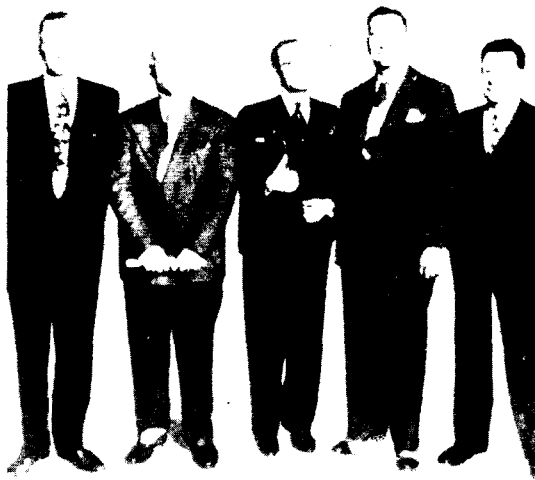
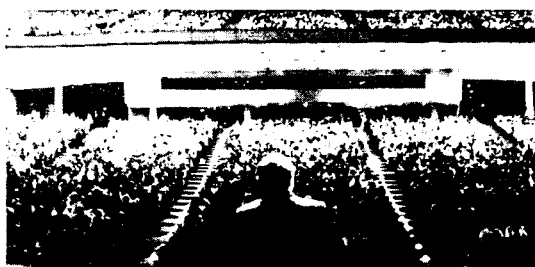
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"Home separation coupled with the separate collection of recyclables is less expensive and more energy-efficient than the high technology systems," says Marchant Wentworth, author of the book.

The book, almost a year in the making, states that reducing the flood of packaging and paper should be our first priority instead of constructing capital and energy intensive garbage-gobbling trash facilities.

"These plants need a constant flow of trash to keep them solvent," Wentworth asserts. "They could become a self-fulfilling prophecy. With solid waste disposal costs skyrocketing out of control, we must learn to reduce our trash production -- not continue it.

The book concludes by stating that our solid waste problem can best be solved by a combination of methods such as container legislation, separate collection of recyclables, and selected energy recovery systems.

"All available methods must be used to quell the rising tide of solid waste -- not just one," observes Wentworth.

Resource Recovery: Truth and Consequences is available from Environmental Action Foundation, Suite 724, Dupont Circle Building, DC 20036 for \$2 postpaid.

FROM: Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Pl., NW, DC 20008, 966-7783: A Directory of Women's Media and an annotated, cumulative Index of media research and activities has been published. The directory includes some 500 entries: periodicals, news services, columns, presses and publishers, radio/TV groups, regularly-scheduled women's programs, film groups, art/graphics/theater and music groups; courses on women and media, speakers bureaus, distributors, bookstores, special library collections, directories, catalogs and other women's media groups and individuals in the US, Canada and a few in other countries. For a copy of the directory send \$8.00.

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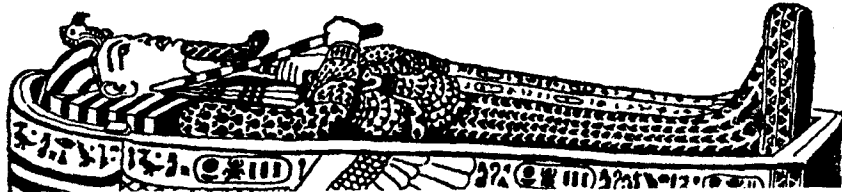


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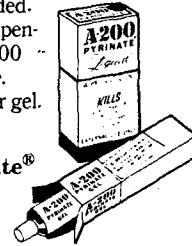
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# DeeCee U stumbles to gate

ANNE CHASE

THE NEW DC university is taking shape quickly, but there is considerable dissatisfaction with the way it is taking shape and nobody, for the present, seems to be able to do anything about it.

Legislation creating the university out of Washington Technical Institute, DC Teachers College and Federal City College was passed by Congress three years ago and later modified by the city council. The law says that the three institutions must be consolidated under a central management system by August 1. The law, however, didn't define "central management system."

The organization charged with consolidation, the board of trustees, was appointed last spring after the board of vocational education and the board of higher education were abolished. Being on the UDC board was a part-time position and members still had their jobs, classes, families and other civic responsibilities. Also they didn't get much staff. They didn't have their own lawyer as the school board does. And they had to find a new president for the new university.

So you had 17 people with little experience in higher education, although some of them are academics, given 15 months to create a new institution, and find someone to run it -- with no one to tell them what they'd better not do if they didn't want to end up in court. Instead, now that they have a lawsuit on their hands, they've hired a high priced Washington law firm that may or may not know anything about public union labor relations.

Why should anyone be surprised that they have a mess on their hands? It's like hiring some hotshot junior executive from IBM with no management experience to run the Department of Human Resources. Even with the best will in the world, you're going to have serious problems.

So, in the words of one board member: "The trustees saw the time passing, the August 1 deadline moving up, and things weren't getting done. So the board panicked."

They handed the consolidation job over to the presidents of FCC and WTI, Wendell Russell and Cleveland Demard. The presidents were to decide what needed to be done, draw up a timetable, appoint committees and report their progress to the board. What they came up with reads like a reorganization of the Defense Department, and that is what all the fuss is about. The president's timetable for consolidation involves 23 "tasks" to be performed in 97 days, and the report is full of words like "prioritize," "methodology" and "submittal." Edwin Newman would have a field day.

The complaints, mainly coming from the faculty of FCC, focus not on the grammar, but on the schedule and the method of consolidation. They say there is neither adequate time, nor opportunity to participate. The board of trustees responds that there is adequate opportunity and they can't do anything about the time. This kind of "is-is not" exchange does not bode well for the future of higher education in DC.

The faculty says that a university cannot be created in three months. The result is bound to be chaos and mediocrity. On March 19, the FCC faculty senate agreed to ask the board of trustees, pri-

vately and publicly, to concentrate on the administrative functions that could be easily consolidated in the three month period, and proceed at a much slower pace with the academic consolidation, determination of a 'mission' for the university, structure, etc.

But board chairman Ron Brown, the board staff and even trustees who are considered sympathetic to the faculty, don't consider delaying the consolidation an option. "The law mandates consolidation of the university by August 1," Brown says. Another board member characterized a delay as "virtually impossible."

The structure appears to merge the two year vocational programs at WTI into the academic offerings of FCC. The FCC faculty say the objectives of the two programs are incompatible. Ron Brown told the Washington Post that they are compatible and that the FCC faculty is "elitist"

Julius Mack, Dean of Natural Sciences at FCC, says, "It is not clear that a single university will serve all the needs of students in this city. We should consider having several institutions with different functions."

Carl Hughes, Dean of the School of Business at FCC, says that the faculty senate "does not subscribe to the incapability of students. Two year programs have a different objective than four year programs. The basic accounting course at WTI teaches the student to perform 13 tasks. At FCC, we use a conceptual approach. We want our students to understand how accounting works and what the checks and balances are," Hughes explained. "Their courses are appropriate to the needs of their students."

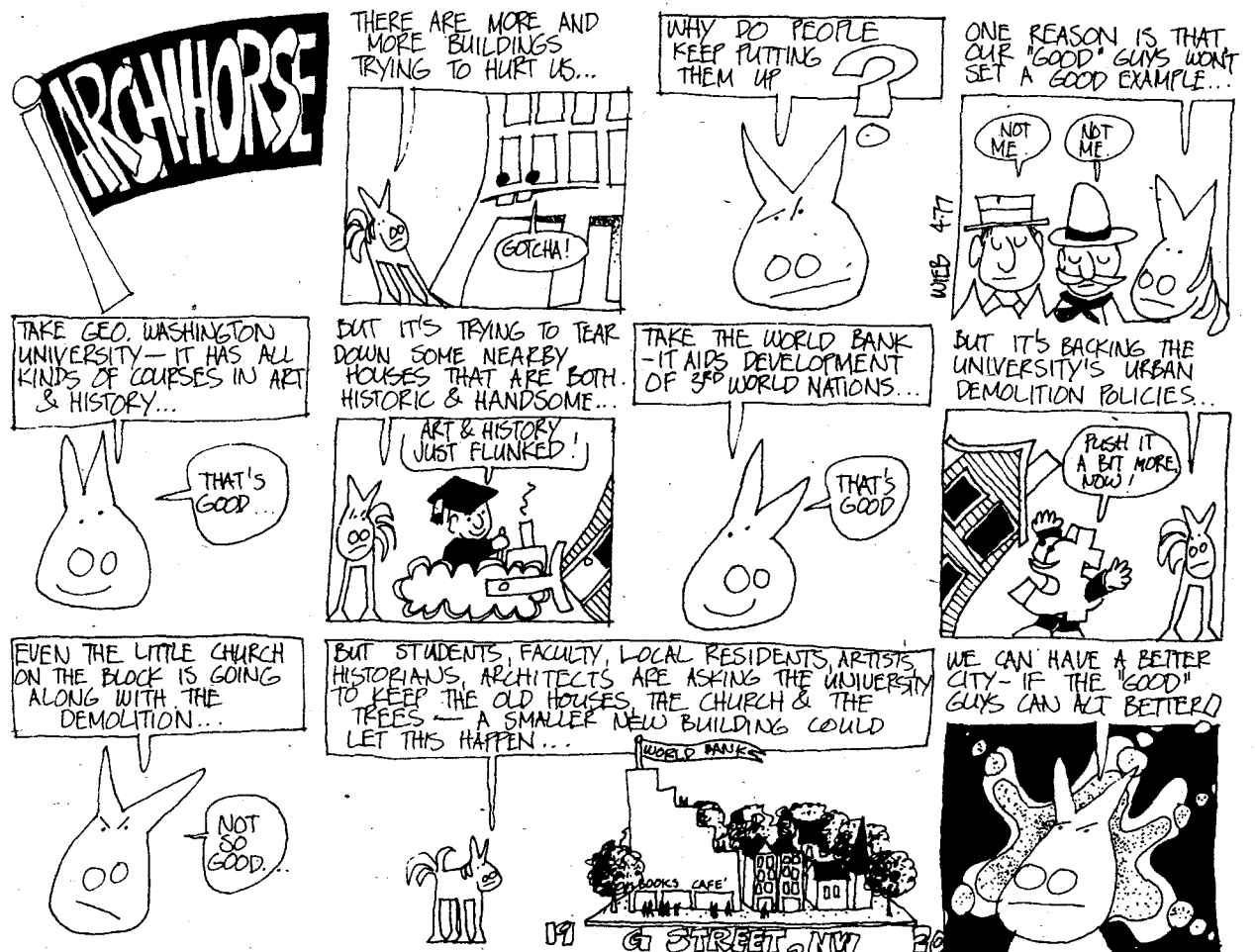
The faculty is distressed and alarmed not only about the speed with which the trustees are proceeding and the structure but about a set of proposed policies called "Task 1." "Task 1" has gone a long way to instill galloping paranoia in an already suspicious faculty. From the start, the way "Task 1" was distributed left something to be desired. Although it contains a number of changes in personnel policy,

only the deans got copies. It is a 250-page document. "It arrived in my office at 3:30, March 18, with a note asking me to have my comments ready by noon, March 18," Carl Hughes said. Requests for more copies went unanswered. When the board of trustees complained to the two presidents about the distribution at their monthly meeting on March 24, Demard said, "Well, we have a lot of trouble with printing."

Then there was the content. "Task 1" was written by the presidents, and "Task 1" give the president of the new university an incredible amount of power, making him (it says "him" all through the document, although it refers to lesser fry as "him or her") an ex-officio member of the board of trustees and the faculty senate, giving him the sole power to fire faculty members without a hearing, and also giving him authority to do some things that are probably illegal, like censoring student publications.

FCC faculty also say that the policies will totally change the character of public education by requiring tuition, ending open admissions and changing the requirements for a tenured faculty.

The conspiracy theory runs like this: "Cleveland Demard is a very ambitious man. He has the support of Diggs and Ruby Martin, chief counsel of the House District Committee. When the legislation creating the university was being drawn up, the committee received a letter from Flaxie Pinkett (chair of the old board of higher education) saying that the courses of WTI would be the core curriculum of the new university. The board is unwary. They are unaware of what they should be doing. Demard has been able to railroad the board into accepting a genuinely disastrous policy. Demard has used political pressure, the support of the Board of Trade and the confusion of the trustees to push himself into the position of being the next president. The fact is that his educational policy is in sync with IBM, or a hundred years out of sync. He wants to replace as many faculty members as possible with Plato, a giant teaching machine that is programmed to tell you George Washington Carver is the first president of the United States, and he believes that industrial education is the only





thing that is appropriate for the students of the District of Columbia."

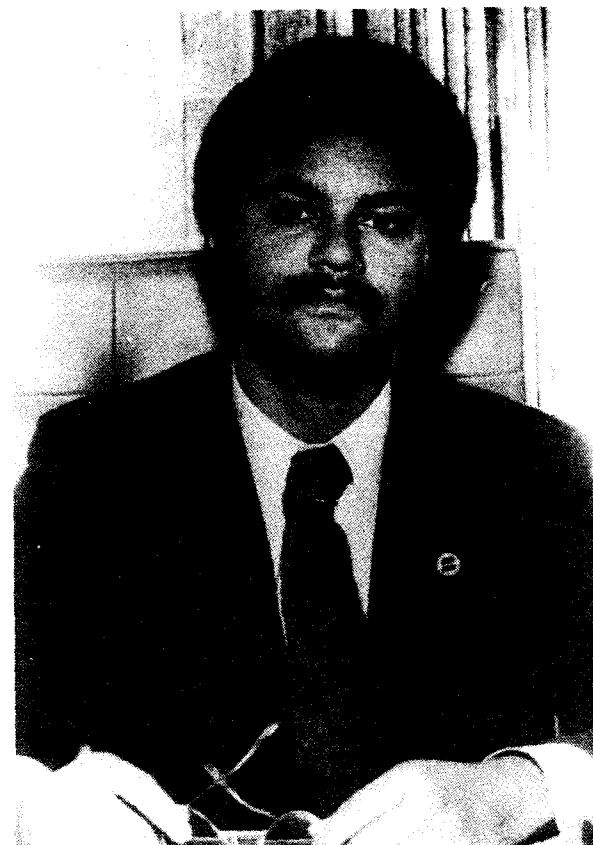
Cooler heads say that Dennard's personality is not at issue. The issue is the policies set forth in "task 1," or at least that is what the spokesmen for the faculty senate will tell reporters. At a faculty senate meeting when they didn't know there were any reporters around, one faculty member said that he had been at a union meeting with representatives from WTI. One WTI professor told him, "You (the FCC faculty) are our only hope." Another faculty member jumped up and yelled, "They won't say anything because they know they'll lose their jobs, and if that guy (Dennard) gets in, we'll all be in the same boat." So much for Dennard's personality.

Instead of trying to get together on consolidation, the board and the faculty seem to be engaging in an orgy of finger-pointing. While the faculty sneers at the board for its inexperience, the board charges the faculty is merely trying to hold on to their jobs.

Both the trustees and the faculty are genuinely concerned about the university.

The only bad guy in this story is the clock, and the people who might be able to stop it say they can't. The faculty is primarily concerned that history does not repeat itself. Meredith Rode, an official of the FCC faculty senate, explained, "A lot of us are charter faculty. We went through all this chaos before, when the school had two thousand students two months after it was founded, and no one had any idea of what they were supposed to do. Well, now we've gotten the school in a good place. It's a first rate educational institution, and we don't want to have to go through the whole thing again."

Things are at a fairly critical juncture now. The board hasn't said anything to indicate that they think the faculty might be right, but on the other hand, they didn't approve "Task 1" at their board meeting as they were scheduled to do. One observer thinks that if the faculty can start saying nice things about the board and "stop coming across as a bunch of troublemakers and radicals" they might get somewhere. Let's hope so.



RON BROWN

## letters, comment & alarms

### WEIGHTY THOUGHTS

RE Flotsam & Jetsam (March Issue): And here I thought that the only other people who hung around weight rooms were hard core grunts and the blow-dry boys. You are the Dave Kopay of chronic jocks and we are grateful.

Let me add one observation to yours. I have long felt that distance running, and even more weight lifting, were essential activities — activities involving the essence. In sports there is almost always an ulterior motive, a carrot: score a point, defeat an opponent, something to be known and esteemed among men.

When you are lifting a weight, however, or running five miles, there is no external "reason" for the exertion. You are face to face with the movement itself, and with the raw fact of your own presence as a moving being.

In this presence we are forced to acknowledge the riddles that we so easily ignore as we go about our daily diversions. Here I stand. I do not want to life this weight over my head. I want to take a nice long shower and drink a cold class of orange juice. I am thinking about what I did today and what I did tomorrow. Yet as my mind wanders here and there the weight is moving up and down over my head.

What is this "me" that is doing this? What is it that links my meandering mind to the motion of my arms? What is it that "does?" What is it that "wants" to do?

Lest it be thought that I am a Spinoza of the squat racks, however, let it be known that I work out not for such philosophical excursions, but because I love a good sweat and the wonderfully tired feeling when it is done.

JONATHAN ROWE

### A COUNCIL STAFF AND THE SEIGE

THE Shackleton staff survived the harrowing hold-up of the District building by Hanafi gunmen without physical injury, but there is much more to the story than that. A major and most unwilling role was played in the sequence of events by my administrative assistant, Sarah Lenzi, and it was only by pure luck that I escaped serious involvement.

Sarah was among the 28 City Council staff members who remained in hiding behind a barricade for a day and a half in the rear of the Council office wing, well within earshot of the gunmen holding their hostages in Chairman Tucker's offices. During their ordeal, Sarah and her companions were of course greatly circumscribed in their movements and quiet was essential to avoid disturbing the precarious equilibrium, but food and water were made available. After the first few hours, during which Sarah was cooped up in the bathroom with several others in total ignorance of outside events, the police succeeded in hoisting a guard contingent from the ground outside the building to the fifth floor hide-out area. From then on the captives had a much greater sense of security but were hardly less concerned, not only for their own safety but for the lives of their colleagues down

the corridor. Final liberation came only with the ultimate surrender of the gunmen at all three city locations.

I very narrowly escaped landing in the middle of the grim shoot-out on the fifth floor, in which one man was killed and several injured. Lee Partridge and I had returned from a working lunch and were standing by the ground floor elevator, about to go upstairs, when suddenly the operator, Mr. Wade, Yanking open the door, transfixed us with his account of how, on the fifth floor, he had looked straight into the business end of a shotgun and how he had pushed the barrel up and slammed the door. Had I taken an "up" car two minutes earlier, the outcome would have been unpredictable, to put it mildly.

Mary Lampson, my executive assistant, had the good fortune to be at the Municipal Center on constituent business. Her first inkling of trouble came as she saw flak-jacketed and heavily armed police set forth for the District Building from police headquarters. She naturally assumed the rest of us were in the building, and it was some time before she could obtain any more news because our telephones did not answer.

The tragic death of a young reporter and the serious injury of a staff intern grieve us deeply. Others were luckier — we rejoice particularly at the miracle that the bullet which entered Councilmember Marion Barry's chest missed his heart by less than an inch.

POLLY SHACKLETON  
CITY COUNCILMEMBER, WARD THREE

We welcome letters and comment on any matter that would be of interest to our readers. Items less than one page double-spaced stand the best chance of being published. Send to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.



# dc eye

## JULIUS HOBSON

EVER so rarely, someone passes through history long enough to lift the mantle of the mundane and the mediocre from our visions. We catch a glimpse of the best of which we, individually and collectively, are capable. We are moved not by the deeds alone, not by the laundry list of virtues, not by just the what.

What Julius did was impressive enough, but it was the how and the why that most deeply affected many who touched or were touched by him. Julius believed in the redistribution of power. That included the redistribution of greatness. There are individuals who carry their greatness to their graves, but because Julius shared his, because he believed that the empowerment of people was more important than his own power, his greatness was not squandered by mortality. His achievement was not just what he did but what he taught, helped and enabled others to do.

The sorrow of his passing is tinged with the fear that we may not be able to stand as firm without him goading or gently nudging us into something better, that we will falter without the prod of his sublime stubbornness, that curious resource of the wise and the brave.

But then we think: part of what Julius was trying to tell us was to rid ourselves of such fears. That we don't need the crutch of great individuals or "leaders," that within each of us is the possibility to seek change rather than power, equity rather than acquisition, and faith rather than resignation.

Julius knew there was a personal price to this possibility: the denial of formal power, the sneers of "agitator, troublemaker, gadfly," the bitter reminders that society honors most those who trouble it the least. But he also knew the words of Frederick Douglass and hung them on his wall:

"Those who profess to favor freedom, yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters."

It was just one of the things that Julius would like us to remember, but it is as good a place as any to start remembering him.

## ASSESSMENTS

YOUR assessment went up dramatically. You're mad. What to do? The mayor says the appeals procedure will help. For most people this is nonsense and he knows it. Appeals are largely worthless unless your property is demonstrably less valuable on the inside than it appears to be on the outside. Say you live in a restored neighborhood. You've painted and fixed up the outside (your first mistake) but inside the walls are unfinished, your kitchen is 1920-vintage, the wiring was installed by Thomas Edison's kid brother and one of the bathrooms is unusable. Then, by all means, appeal. But if your assessment is at or below what you would sell your house for, don't bank on your appeal being approved. One of the reasons assessments have gone up is because they have become more accurate. Some of the neighborhoods screaming loudest were far underassessed a few years ago. The city knows it and has the data to prove it.

- If you do want to appeal, file an appeal form before April 15 with the Board of Equalization and Review (629-2119) (Room 2000, 300 Indiana Ave., NW). If you wish to check the assessment rolls for the city, you may do so at the Tenley-Friendship Library, the M.L. King Library, the address above, or the District Building.

- The city keeps quiet about it, but there are two important forms of property tax relief available. One is the property tax credit on your DC income tax,

KISSINGER VISITS  
THE WHITE HOUSE

AH, COME ON HENRY - WHERE DID  
YOU HIDE THE REST OF OUR ALLIES?



which can be used by those households with a gross income of under \$7000 whose property taxes or rent constituting property taxes (15%) exceed a stated percentage of their income. Call 629-4665 for information.

Secondly, if your household's adjusted gross income does not exceed \$20,000 and your tax bill is more than ten percent above last year's you may defer the excess until the time of sale if you meet certain requirements. You pay the average US Treasury bill interest on this deferment and it constitutes a preferential lien on your property. The total amount deferred may not exceed ten percent of the assessed value of the property.

Households with gross incomes above \$20,000 are entitled to a similar deferment provided the tax bill exceeds 25% of last year's. This deferral mechanism could be extremely useful for many householders but the city makes little effort to explain it other than in the small print pamphlet included with assessment notices. Check it out.

- The mayor is looking for the windfall benefits of the most recent assessments because he is running (as of January) \$41 million behind in property tax collections compared with the same time last year. This is because he manipulated the due date of property taxes in order to shore up his rickety financial situation last year. Unfortunately, this sort of game only works for one year and is a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

- It is a bit hypocritical for the mayor to talk about appeals and send out the assessor to take the flack from citizens groups. That's not where the problem lies. The real reason to scream is because the mayor for years has been avoiding real estate tax rate increases because speculative rises in assessments have made it unnecessary. That's not the assessor's fault. It's the mayor and city council who should be called to account for imposing hidden tax increases on DC property owners because of assessment rises.

- Several city councilmembers have proposed changes in the law that would relieve the situation. Marion Barry, who chairs the Finance and Revenue Committee, has proposed that the revenue derived from increased assessments be returned to the taxpayers in the form of a decrease in the tax rate from the present figure of \$1.83 per \$100 of assessed value to something in the neighborhood of \$1.74 per \$100. To quote Barry: "The specific home-by-home assessment increases... are symptomatic of deeper illnesses in our housing market."

Last month we gave Marion Barry a rose for his tax reduction proposal, but a sharp-eyed observer of the local scene points out to us that the plan is not what it seems. Because commercial property assessments have gone up far less than residential assessments, the reduction in the rate may produce an actual reduction in taxes for some commercial property while only slightly lessening the increase for residential properties.

Which brings up another point. The city assesses residential property on market value but commercial property is discounted for cash flow. Thus an apartment building might be assessed at \$9 million, but if it were converted into condominiums the assessment might rise to, say, \$25 million. This gives you some idea of the extent to which homeowners are unfairly assessed in comparison with businesses. We understand that a law suit is in the works on this issue.

David Clarke has proposed three changes in the tax law. His recent statement upon introducing the legislation is worth quoting:

"The bills would require the establishment of a different and lower rate for residential real property than for nonresidential real property, remove the specific real property tax exemptions of certain Congressionally-favored organizations requiring them to obtain exemption under our general exemption cate-



gories or to pay their taxes, and place a deterrent tax upon speculative real estate sales with the deterrent tax being set according to two interrelating variables: the time the property is held and the excess profit gleaned.

"The new assessments for the reassessed areas reflect a 26.7% average increase in real estate assessments. Moreover, they reflect average increases of 31.9% in residential properties, and 7.7% in non-residential areas. If the current rate of \$1.83 per \$100 of assessed value were to apply to the owner of what is assessed for FY '77 as a \$40,000 home, and which increases by 31.9% for FY '78, taxes would go from \$732.00 to \$965.51 for an increase of \$233.51.

"As the FY '78 Multi-Year Financial Plan shows a need to produce \$166 million from the real property tax to balance the FY '78 budget, the rate of \$1.83 would have to be maintained if we were to continue with a single rate.

"Establishment of a different rate for residential and nonresidential property at \$1.83 and \$2.16 per \$100 of assessed valuation respectively, would yield an additional \$10 million in FY '78 assessment levels.

"Taxing organizations now possessing specific exemptions which would apparently not be eligible for exemption under the general exemption categories would yield an additional \$2 million in revenues at current rates and with FY '77 assessments.

"Together the different-rate and exemption-erasure bills could produce \$13.1 million in additional revenues. As only \$166 million is needed and not \$178.8 million both the residential and nonresidential rates could be lessened accordingly to \$1.70 and \$2.01. This would produce \$166.2 million. Our homeowner's home which is now assessed at \$40,000 and whose assessment appreciates by the average 31.9% would pay \$896.92 or an increase of \$164.92 over what he or she now pays. This increase would be \$68.59 less than it would be with a \$1.83 rate.

"In some neighborhoods, the increases will be higher than in other neighborhoods. For instance, in my ward the average increase in Mount Pleasant is 37%. Moreover, the assessments for some homes in some areas have been known to increase 100% or more in prior years. The tax for such a property with a 100% increase in assessment would increase 85.8% with a rate of \$1.70 which is better than 100% but still beyond the capabilities of many to sustain. During hearings before the Committee of the Whole and the Committee on Finance and Revenue last year, the chief assessor said that one major cause for some extraordinary increases in assessments in some neighborhoods and for high average increases in some neighborhoods is real estate speculation. He said that the sale of two or three homes in a block at an extraordinarily high price could force up the assessment of other, unsold homes in the block. Thus speculation operates not only to reduce the availability of home ownership to prospective buyers with limited incomes but operates also to force the cost of continued ownership out of the means of persons with limited incomes.

"Rate adjustments can go only so far to respond to the taxpaying capabilities of homeowners with limited incomes. The speculation tax bill which I am introducing addresses itself to a cause of those rapid increases in assessments. It is not designed to reduce taxes by bringing down the value of property; applying itself, in a scaled manner, to excess profits on quick turnovers, it is designed to keep the rate of escalation of property values within reasonable bounds so that people do not get hit hard with tremendous tax increases in the future as they have in the past."

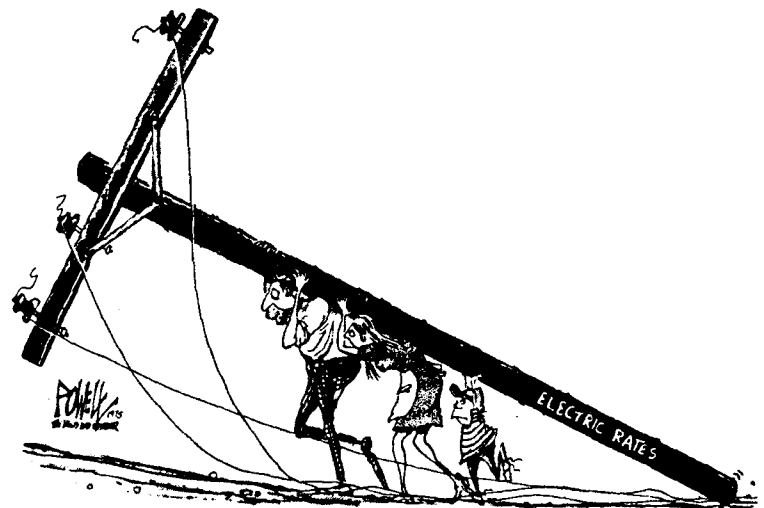
• Finally, the Gazette has argued for some years that one of the fundamental weaknesses in the property tax is that it only taxes one form of wealth: real property. If you own a house worth, say, \$70,000, you pay nearly \$1300 a year on that \$70,000 of personal wealth. If you own \$70,000 worth of stocks and bonds you pay only on the income — nothing on the \$70,000 of personal wealth. If you own \$70,000 worth of antiques, art or other personal property, you pay nothing on it. We believe the property tax should be changed into a generalized wealth tax emphasizing the following provisions:

• Stocks, bond and money in savings accounts should be taxed by a surtax on income from them as is done in a number of states. There should be a low income exemption but otherwise the effort should be to tax different forms of wealth as equally as possible.

• Antiques, art and other personal property should be taxed on their insured value. This would not provide precise coverage but would require anyone, in order to cheat the assessor, to underinsure their property.

Broadening the property tax in this way would reduce the property taxes paid by most people. Studies have been done that show that a ten percent surtax on unearned income, for example, could be used to reduce property taxes from ten to 100 percent depending upon the location. Remember that only about a quarter of the personal wealth in this country is in real estate. Seventy-five percent largely escapes wealth taxation.

The Gazette also believes that the mayor should not be allowed to reap the benefits of windfall increases in assessments without going through the procedures required of any tax increase. A law should be passed requiring the mayor to task the city council for specific approval of any citywide revenue increase resulting in assessment rises above, say, the inflation rate. The city council would have the choice of either going along with what in effect is a tax increase or lowering the tax rate to equalize the income.



## SCHOOLS ON THE LIST

SALLY JACOBS

TAKING THE BRUNT OF FISCAL shortages within the public school system, numerous children who attend small community-based schools may soon be confronted by closed doors. As a result they may be compelled to walk greater distances to larger school that have abandoned the principles of individual attention for the sake of efficiency and increased facilities.

Pressured on the one side by a Congress demanding budget reductions and on the other side by irate parents clamoring for convenient and personal community schools, the Board of Education is in an awkward position. Attempting to pacify both elements, superintendent Vincent Reed issued a recommendation to the Board of Education on March 21 proposing the possible closing of twenty-four of the one-hundred and thirty-one schools under his jurisdiction.

The recommendation is the first portion of a two-phase plan to reduce the expenses of the public school system by closing small under-enrolled schools and ushering students into several new public schools that have a far greater capacity. Theoretically, increased use of the large and efficient schools will save a significant amount of money that is now being poured into the maintenance of undersized institutions. The effect on educational quality has yet to be calculated in the figures that Reed presented to the board.

"The predominant considerations to be taken into account in determining which of the twenty-four will be shut are:

- declining enrollment
- age and condition
- staff and maintenance costs
- available facilities

If a particular school under review is discovered to be unnecessarily costly the board would then determine whether the institution was worth maintaining. In addition to these fiscal criteria, an assistant to Reed says that other factors such as community need and proximity of other schools will also be considered, "a mixture of hard and soft concerns."

Five years ago the financial constraints upon the public school system were not nearly as severe as they are today. Thus, plans for the construction of several large and progressive schools were developed to provide a solution for overenrollment. It now appears that these same schools, some of which

have yet to be completed, are chronically underenrolled and must absorb students from the smaller area schools if either are to survive. It is to these mass institutions that displaced students are to be guided.

Upon completion of the review of the situation at each of the twenty-four schools, the Board of Education would then study the impact and effect of the plan as well as available alternatives. When the board meets this month, a decision will be made upon the merit of Reed's proposal. In any case, the Board must complete its budget proposal previous to its appearance before Congress this spring.

Though increased use of large institutions may solve some of the government's financial problems, a great number of parents and concerned individuals oppose the plan. For many children, relocation could mean unnecessarily long, and often dangerous, walks to school. Parents are concerned that 'mass' institutions will mean oversized classes, impersonal student-teacher relationships and generally a disruptive and difficult experience for their children that gives little indication of educational reward. In many cases, the community will lose a habitual place of meeting and a building that has provided many services, if the plan is accepted.

John Warren, Ward Six boardmember, had known for some time that six of the schools in his ward were possible candidates for closure. To protect the 2,100 students involved, Warren five months ago organized a task force of PTA and ANC members, teachers and administrators. Since that time the group has worked to create an alternative to the shutdown and is presently developing a plan that would embrace all six of the schools in one institution, combining facilities and staff to ease their own budgetary problems.

Dorothy Boyd, chairman of the PTA's membership committee at Ross School, has discovered that organization is the first step necessary to ward off the authorities. Initially concerned that her own children, in first and third grades, would be compelled to walk seven blocks to their new school through an area recently involved in a narcotics bust, Boyd is now involved in contesting the impending decision of the Board of Education.

Dorothy Boyd feels that maintenance of these smaller schools, though the cost may be slightly greater, is vital to the preservation of the community. To protect their children from the effects of the "factory-schools's" members of the PTA and concerned individuals are taking measures to stabilize, if not increase, the fluctuating enrollment of the Ross School. It is possible that a satisfactory enrollment figure would immunize the school from closure plans. Thus far, pre-kindergarten classes have been developed for the numerous young couples in the area and longer day and after-school programs involving the community have been instituted. Meanwhile other members of the group have sent statements of protest to both the school superintendent and the neighborhood council.

Whether the efforts of those such as Dorothy Boyd will have any visible effect upon the Board of Education's decision remains to be seen. As to the decision itself - were students the primary concern, attention would be directed to the nourishment of their development and not, however inadvertently, its frustration. As the realities of economic necessity exert an increasing effect upon lives, both as individuals and groups, we continue to reap infrequent profit and perpetual loss.

## METROTICKS

AFRO staff writer R.C. Newell reports that a high ranking official in the Fire Department says the city does not have the ability to fight effectively a major fire in the subway. According to Newell, "The official predicted that as many as 500 persons could be killed or injured if a major fire broke out during either the morning or evening rush hours." The story quotes David Ryan, president of the local fire fighters union as saying "It's going to happen. I don't care how careful Metro officials are, we are going to have a subway fire. There is no way the city can handle a major Metro fire. Once you underground to fight a fire you are in a completely different ballgame. The smoke wants to go up and there is no roof to open to let the smoke out. There are no windows in the walls to let the heat out." . . . HEADLINE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES: "Last Mile for the Nation's Subways?" The story by Virginia Fairweather reports that "new subway construction may be coming to an end." Will any more subways be built, Fairweather asked Department of Transportation subway expert Russell McFar-

land. He replied, "Not at present costs." The story also quotes Kenneth Orski, Urban Mass Transit Administration associate director as saying that most American cities planning mass transit systems will build them on the surface or elevate them, rather than go underground. . . . LATEST METRO reports show a decline in bus passengers since the subway opened. . . . STORY IN THE WASHINGTON POST: "Metro Eyes Use of Light Rail Trolleys" was the headline and the lead was "The committee overseeing possible cutbacks of Washington's Metrorail system agreed yesterday to consider substituting so-called light rail trolley cars on two routes in Washington and Prince Georges County." AS WE WERE SAYING. . . The Metro PR department puts out a newsclipping file for Metro officials. In a recent edition, the Washington Post's announcement of increases in home delivery prices was reprinted. Underneath someone had written: "Will this drive patrons to TV? Were hearings adequate? Was EIS (environmental impact statement) filed?"

## FURTHERMORE. . .

ACCORDING to latest figures from city hall, only six states have a higher state and local per capita tax burden than DC. . . . TIP TO DON'T TEAR IT DOWN: Gladstone Associates, the developer's favorite local consultant (late of the West End and convention center) has told the YWCA it better tear down its present building and put up a new one. Some of the YWCAers are suspicious. . . . LEAKS in Washington are nothing new but 125 "visible and serious" ones in the Kennedy Center seems excessive. Says a National Park Service architect: "There are different theories about it. There's a question about whether the contractor was at fault in some instances, and questions about the design in others."

CAPITOL HILL, no stranger to intramural controversies, is having a battle royal over how the north end of Eastern Market should be used. The Restoration Society wants amore market facilities; others want the space used as a community arts center. . . . THE DC POLICE, at the request of Dave Clarke, are doing a statistical study on the incidence of abused women in the city. At present there is only one facility (with a capacity of eight) for abused women. Report should be ready next fall.

TWO of the mayor's memos were being quietly circulated around the District Building stapled together. On top was the mayor's announcement of Women in DC Government Week complete with a Plenary Kickoff, luncheon and Shirley Temple Black. Underneath was the mayor's list of appointments to the Manpower Services Planning Advisory Committee. Thirteen men and one woman. The latter, of course, was a twofer: female and senior citizen.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT recently opened up 60 positions. Two thousand people took the exam. . . . A HOUSE CAUGHT FIRE IN CLEVELAND PARK recently. A neighbor called 911. No answer. Fortunately, a call box was nearby. . . . WALTER FAUNTROY is said to have the best political organization in town. Then how come at least three members of it are thinking of running for mayor? Better tighten things up, Walter. Dave Eaton is the latest to ponder the Big Question.

BIG RESPONSE to announcement of a parents union in DC. Over two hundred parents have signed up. You can, too, by dropping a line to DC Parents Union, 1001 5th St, SE, DC 20003. Or call Ginny Johnson at 547-8880. . . . THE APEX THEATER is down but the law suit lingers on. The developer applicant said originally that he only wanted to put up a building of 96,000 square feet. He went to alley philanthropist Jerry Moore and won approval from Moore's committee and the city council back in 1973, presumably because it met the requirement that the alley "has been rendered useless or unnecessary." Now with the alley closed, the developer can put up 194,000 square feet. Polly Shackleton and others want reconsideration of the whole deal.

NEW REGIONAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS will be selected shortly. . . . THOSE zebra stripes showing up on the bindingsof books at the Martin Luther King library aren't indications that the library is planning to charge for taking volumes out. It's all part of a fancy new inventory control system. An informed bookworm tells us that so far it's just added more confusion.



# Metro hits us again

KENNETH W. MOWLL

FARE INCREASES HIT HARDEST those who can least afford to pay, including the elderly, the poor, the handicapped, students and others without access to automobiles. These people can not afford to pay fare increases and thus will have their mobility significantly reduced by the planned increases. This will result in a lessening of opportunities for jobs, shopping, cultural achievements, recreation, etc. for these people causing a significant deterioration in their quality of life as well as significantly reducing the chances for advancement especially among the poor and young people.

The District was built largely before the automobile age and thus does not have the street capacity to move all of its workers, shoppers and visitors around in autos alone. Unlike suburban jurisdictions, the District is quite dependent upon public transportation for providing access to its shops and businesses. Thus, the District is much more dependent upon transit for its economic health. If transit fares are increased, many people will shift to auto transportation. Since the suburbs are much more convenient for auto travel, many of these people will shift their shopping to suburban stores, causing a loss of business and jobs in DC.

The Metro rail system will provide

increased access to downtown shops and businesses and could provide a large stimulus to the District's economy, if its fares were low enough to attract large numbers of people. Reasonably priced Metrorail trips would provide many DC residents with a real alternative to the automobile. This would allow many families to move about the District with no car, and encourage other families to own only one car. Unlike the suburbs, where families must purchase two of three cars, DC families would be able to avoid extra car purchases and therefore have more money to spend stimulating the local economy. Additional benefits from increased public transit use would include, reduced air pollution, reduced traffic noise, reduced auto traffic, and improved auto flow.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE FARE HIKE

**THE 50¢ PEAK HOUR BUS FARE:** The WMATA staff estimates that nearly \$3.5 million in additional revenue will be generated because of an increase in the peak hour bus fare in DC. This increase in revenue has some very interesting side effects. First, 786,000 transit trips per year will not be taken because of this increase. This means that over 1,500 people will shift their peak hour mode of transportation from transit to auto. This

will cause some of these people to shift some of their other trips to autos, since they will abandon transit all together and purchase or borrow cars. In addition, some of the bus riders who continue to pay the higher fares may have to cut back on other expenses, possibly including other transit trips.

One of the most interesting aspects of the \$3.5 million revenue increase for WMATA is that only \$2.5 million comes from the farebox. The other \$1 million comes from the DC government in the form of an increased subsidy for school trips. Since the WMATA staff assumed that the student fare would remain at 10¢, the DC government would have to make up the additional 40¢ of each 50¢ fare.

**THE PROPOSED METRORAIL FARES:** WMATA should have published the proposed fares between all of the stations — not just the fares between those stations included in Phases I, II, and IIA. This omission leaves many areas of the city in ignorance of the fares they will be paying when their station opens. By that time the fares will already be established and these residents will have no opportunity to express themselves of the fares they have to pay.

The impact of the Metrorail fares is shown in the chart (next page). This chart shows the percent increase in transit fares over the existing 40¢ fare in the District and over the bus fares in the suburbs as of March 21. Within DC the fare to downtown is increased substantially from all residential neighborhoods. The extreme case is the Takoma area where



## roses & thorns



**ROSES:** To Marion Barry, for introducing a bill that would officially change the name of the District Building to "City Hall."

**ROSES:** To everyone involved in bringing the city out of its 39 hours of fear and misery during the recent siege. One of the unappreciated facts about the city is that it handles times of stress rather well. It is a sign of a city that it is not at war with itself. These moments reveal unity and sensitivity in DC that we forget about during our day to day contentions. As we learned during Mayday 1971, when an authoritarian police chief and his federal mentors ripped through our town, the bond is a fragile one. But for the most part, we have been spared the consequences of grandstanding politicians like Nelson Rockefeller at Attica. We suspect that part of the reason is that, despite all the attempts to deny the city its rights and to pretend it doesn't exist except to serve the federal establishment, most DCers, from Walter Washington and Maurice Cullinane on down, know better. To the White House the siege may have appeared a tactical military problem; to local officials it was another trial by fire of the spirit of the city. It is a good spirit, limited enough in pridefulness to permit a judge to come down to the courthouse to hear the complaints of prisoners holding the corrections chief hostage at the DC jail, or the police chief to work out an honorable deal with the Hamaas Abdul Khalis. It is a spirit of "we can work it out," which, however frustrating in our daily politics, can save us in times of trouble. It is no small thing to live in a city where so many share the belief that no one is expendable.

**THORNS:** to bigshot freedom-of-the presser Ben Bradlee who justified his disinterest in the Screw magazine prosecution case in a letter to a Columbia Journalism Review writer by saying: "I spend a good half of my time on the First Amendment involving gag orders and subpoenas that vitally affect my ability to produce a product every day. I'm not so sure how much I've got left over for Screw magazine." Bradlee admitted that the government's methods in the Screw case were "godawful" but added "I've got higher priorities as far as the First Amendment is concerned than pornography." Bradlee apparently believes the First Amendment should apply first to the Washington Post, then other people.

**THORNS:** To Rebecca Leet of the Washington Star who wrote a major piece on DC voting rights, sloughing off statehood with the statement, "Statehood is a complicated problem, involving not only the legal question of whether the city could become a state — given the constitutional provision for a seat of government controlled by Congress — but also the economic question of how such a state could support itself when 55 percent of its land, being federally owned, would be exempt from taxes." Leet apparently got her information from the folks who are seeking to enfranchise Mr. Fauntroy through a constitutional amendment (the first private bill ever introduced as a constitutional amendment) and not from those concerned with enfranchising the other 700,000 residents of DC. Leet's editors should consider the possibility that there is a difference between a problem being complicated and a reporter not understanding it.

**THORNS:** To Jerry Moore who has introduced legislation that would restrict the distribution of handbills, require that your trashcans carry the seal of the mayor's approval, require trash compactors in new and remodelled units, require you cut your brush into three foot lengths for pick-up, and require you to sweep your sidewalk by noon each day (excluding Sundays). Moore threw in everything but the kitchen sink (he's probably working up a special bill on that one) in this legislation which has serious problems ranging from the constitutional to the practical. There is, for example, considerable debate about the advisability of trash compactors. The bill makes no provision for someone whose sidewalk gets littered while they're out of town, sick or disabled, and it further proposes that leaflets be placed in mailboxes (a violation of federal law). The leafletting section would only allow pamphlets (and presumably the Uptown Citizen or Washington Star) to be handed to people directly or placed in the mail box. This is not only constitutionally questionable, it's stupid. The bill is one of the dumbest pieces of legislation to be offered by this legislation-happy city council.

**ROSES:** To Arrington Dixon for introducing legislation that would require that all legislation be written in plain language, even though we didn't quite understand Dixon's bill.



transit fares to downtown will increase from the current 40¢ to 85¢ on Metrorail, a 112% increase. Similar increases would occur in many areas of the city as additional stations open. Upper Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues and areas in Anacostia will be particularly hard hit. Unfortunately, the Metro staff has not published these fares yet.

In a conversation with a Metro staffer, he indicated that very few people would use the Takoma station and emphasized that the vast majority of riders on the subway, especially during off peak periods, would travel within downtown.

Within the District only residential areas are faced with a fare increase. The downtown office workers are not affected. It is grossly unfair for the residential areas of the city to pay much higher fares than downtown workers, most of whom pay no DC taxes.

The Metro staff has argued that the Metrorail fare should be based upon distance, thus reflecting the higher operating cost of moving a train farther. This argument is fine in theory, but in practice it is rubbish. Metrorail operations are based upon the demand of commuters and downtown workers. The trains serving these riders are run to the end of the line and then back through downtown to pick up more downtown workers. Since the trains have to be run through the residential areas anyway, while serving the downtown workers, the marginal cost of picking up riders in these areas is nothing.

**THE TRANSFER CHARGE BETWEEN BUS AND RAIL:** This is probably the most onerous of the fare proposals. It would increase the cost of using transit between 56% and 69% with the highest increase being charged to the poorest people — those from Anacostia. When the Metro staff estimated the impact on ridership of this fare increase they assumed only a 25% increase in fares and assumed that the advantages of the rail portion of the trip would cancel out the rest of the fare increase. This is wishful thinking on the part of the WMATA staff. Most of the people transferring in the District take the bus for most of their trip, thus minimizing the advantages of the small rail portion of the trip. In addition, these riders are inconvenienced by having to transfer, by having to wait for both the train and bus on each trip, and probably by having to walk further from the subway to their destination. Metro assumed that for every 10% increase in bus fares 1% of the riders

would stop using the bus. This resistance factor is probably reasonable for small fare increases on peak hour trips with no decrease in the quality of transit service. But for bus/rail trips, this is not the case. A very large increase is proposed along with increased wait times and increased walking distances, plus the inconvenience of a transfer. Under these conditions the rider resistance factor is likely to be much higher.

Of most concern are the poor people, especially those from Anacostia, who will have to pay the higher fares. Many have their budgets stretched to the limit now and may not be able to afford to pay the fare increases. In fact, some of these people may find that the cost of working has become too great and may find it more profitable to choose welfare. This would decrease the income of the DC government and increase its costs.

(As we went to press, Metro decided to eliminate the subway-to-bus transfer charge but not the other way around. This lowers the proposed increase but Mowll's basic point still stands — ED.)

PERCENT FARE INCREASE UNDER  
METRO RAIL PROPOSAL FOR  
TRAVEL TO OR FROM DOWNTOWN

Dupont Circle	0%
Farragut North	0%
Foggy Bottom	0%
Metro Center	0%
L'Enfant Plaza	0%
Union Station	0%
Capitol South	0%
Rosslyn	-29%
Pentagon	-11%
Rhode Island Ave.	+12%
Brookland	+38%
Fort Totten	+62%
Takoma Park	+112%
Silver Spring	+19%
Eastern Market	+12%
Potomac Avenue	+25%
DC Stadium	+38%
Transanacostia	+69%

Figures based on comparison with present bus fares. Fare increases for other Metro stops have not been released but will be comparable.

It can be concluded that the impacts of the proposed fare increases are very much greater than the WMATA staff has admitted.

First the 50¢ peak hour bus fare will raise \$3.5 million, only because one million will come from an increase in DC subsidy of school trips.

Second, the revenues generated because of the subway fare increases are understated because they include no rider resistance factor.

Third, the impact of the bus/rail transfer will be severe.

Fourth, well over 3 million annual transit trips will not be made in DC because of the fare increases, causing an increase in auto congestion, air pollution and noise.

Fifth, the poorest people will be hit hardest by the increases, not only because they have less money to spend, but also because they will pay the highest fares.

Sixth, the District will suffer from loss of downtown business because the fare increases will make downtown much less accessible to many people who will take their business to the suburbs, resulting in a loss of jobs and revenues in DC.

Seventh, the very high subway fares from residential DC areas to downtown will create a segregated transit system with rich whites using the subway and poor blacks using buses.

In order to avoid these impacts, the existing fares throughout DC should be maintained for both rail and buses. The rail system already has a precedent for this type of zone fare structure in Virginia where Roselyn and Pentagon fares were equalized in order to accommodate riders rather than achieve a "cost per mile fare."

Existing fares and the elimination of a bus/rail transfer charge would promote ridership; allow more efficient use of both the bus and rail fleets by eliminating competing segregated services; promote mobility and opportunity for DC residents, and encourage the patronage of DC businesses.

KENNETH MOWLL is a transportation consultant and a member of the DC Statehood Party steering committee.



## looking back



THESE DC PUBLIC SCHOOL children were photographed by the noted Washington photographer Frances Benjamin Johnson around 1900. The photos are part of an extensive series of pictures she took in the DC schools at the turn of the century, including classroom scenes as well as excursions



such as these. The Johnson Collection, which also includes portraits of prominent Washingtonians and interiors of turn-of-the-century homes, is housed in the Prints & Photographs Division of the Library of Congress.

--KATHY SMITH



# The state bank idea

JAMES ROWEN

WITH city after city facing financial collapse and social decay, several highly urbanized states are looking to rural North Dakota for a possible answer to their fiscal crises.

The object of their affections is the state Bank of North Dakota — the only existing public bank in the US — which since its founding in 1919 has lent millions of dollars to North Dakota farmers and students.

Relying for most of its resources on the desposit of all state money, the Bank of North Dakota has returned \$91 million in profit to the state while gaining a degree of public control unique for a bank in the US. Such democratic control — it is run by a three-member board of elected state officials — has inspired activists around the country looking for financial and political means to implement new fiscal policies.

They dream of public banks allocating money, credit and technical assistance to cash-starved cities, co-ops, minority enterprises, small businesses, worker-controlled companies and other projects private banks usually have not supported.

Proposals for such state-owned banks are now under official review in eight states and DC.

In New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, California, Florida, Colorado, Oregon and Washington, public bank proponents believe the system that has helped farmers in North Dakota can give the public more power to direct urban development in their states.

Nearly all cities and states now routinely deposit their funds in private banks. Public capital proponents propose to invest those funds in public banks, which, like the Bank of North Dakota, would be prohibited from making traditional commercial or personal loans.

New York State Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut, who has proposed a New York State public bank, says the "state bank concept originated in a discussion of how to link state deposits to public needs — how to make public money work for the public good."

A bill to create the State Public Bank of Oregon, introduced by Oregon legislator George Starr, declares that the bank "be a government agency established for the public benefit." Similar "public-money-for-public-needs" definitions are repeated in all the pending public bank proposals.

A survey conducted in DC points up one reason why. The survey found that more than 40 percent of total mortgages approved by banks in 1975 went to the predominantly white and wealthy northwest neighborhoods that make up a small fraction of the city.

Steingut's New York state proposal, spurred by the recession and calamitous financial condition of New York City, passed the Assembly in 1975 but was killed in the Senate after strong opposition from the state's banking lobby.

The private bankers clearly feared the transfer of the state's \$6 billion in deposits to the new public bank, creating immediate competition from what instantly would have become one of the largest banks in the country.

But Steingut plans to reintroduce his proposal, which was endorsed by Ralph Nader, economist Eliot Janeway and Bank of North Dakota President H.L. Thorndal. And because of New York's precarious financial position, it is considered the state most likely to approve the nation's second public state bank.

"A bank owned, operated by and for the people of a state will not be a panacea for all of a state's economic and social problems," warns North Dakota's Thorndal. "But it can be a great help in alleviating many of these problems and can give leadership and financial input in isolated and special areas."

Barron's, Dow Jones & Co.'s respected financial weekly, sounded an alarm against the public capital movement in a two-part series last August. The articles identified the Institute for Policy Studies as the force behind the movement, and nervously pointed to many former antiwar activists who are "going respectable" and targeting the country's banking system for substantial overhaul.

"This change in strategy," wrote Barron's David Kelley, "tends to obscure an underlying continuity in purpose, which is still to bring about a socialist society, with community ownership and control of all resources."

"It also obscures the kind of power which the Left can now deploy inside the system, to achieve its goal."

But ironically, the public banks concept has been given one of its biggest boosts — and a degree of legitimacy unthinkable five years ago — by the nation's financially strapped big-city mayors.

At a recent emergency meeting in Chicago of the US Conference of Mayors, the

mayors urged the Carter Administration to create a "National Urban Development Bank" to lend federal funds to local governments and private businesses.

According to a confidential report prepared for the mayors' meeting, the fiscally imperiled eastern and northern urban states are "exporting" billions of dollars of much-needed capital to states in the South, Southwest and West. Private bankers with non-public priorities, the report said, saw greater guaranteed profits in the Sunbelt.

Sen. Thomas McIntyre (D.N.H.) is sponsoring federal legislation to create a "National Consumer Cooperative Bank" that would lend money to existing or proposed cooperatives to provide community-controlled services in the areas of housing, health, food, preschool education and other businesses.

Several states have also taken half-way steps toward public banking.

In Massachusetts, voters approved \$10 million in seed money last fall for a public agency to provide equity and venture capital to create new jobs in local businesses.

Other specialized public financial programs are in operation in Kansas, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

(Copyright PNS 1977)

## PETITION OF REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN SUPPORT OF COUNCIL Bill 2-1

STATEHOOD FOR D.C.



We support Statehood for the District of Columbia. We support Statehood because we understand that the people of the District will never have equal rights as long as they live in the Federal District, because Congress — according to the Constitution — has ultimate control. We support Statehood because we understand that only Statehood will provide a real local government and at the same time provide full representation in Congress. We support Statehood because we understand that Statehood requires only a simple majority vote of Congress, not a two-thirds vote of Congress plus ratification by three-fourths of the states as would a less desirable and limited Constitutional Amendment to provide for voting rights in Congress.

For these reasons, we petition the Council of the District of Columbia to speedily debate and enact the Statehood Bill (Bill 2-1) introduced and sponsored by Councilmember Julius W. Hobson.

NAME & ADDRESS OF PETITIONER (Print or Type)		SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER
1	NAME ADDRESS	
2	NAME ADDRESS	
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Please return this petition at the earliest convenience to Lou Aronica, 4458 Que Street N.W. Foxhall Village, COLUMBIA 20007. If you have any questions call 338-4640.

Person circulating this petition please fill in below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ more petitions.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Here is a contribution to assist the petition drive of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Make checks to Statehood Petition Drive.

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

JAMES ROWEN, administrative assistant to the the mayor of Madison, Wi., has written for *The Progressive*, *The Nation* and other publications.

# Getting along

A UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA study casts doubt on the popular new theory that individuals' lives and performances are affected by "biorhythms."

The proponents of biorhythms claim that each person, beginning at the moment of birth, goes through through three separate but recurring cycles - 28, 33 and 38 days in length. According to this theory, when all three cycles are at their peaks, a person will be the most successful or productive in both work and play; however, during "down" or "critical" periods, failure and accidents are predicted.

Doctor James Fix of Nebraska's College of Medicine decided to test the biorhythm theory by picking 70 major league baseball players at random, looking up their birthdays, computing their good and bad days, and then measuring how their official batting records were affected during the critical days of the baseball season.

Fix reports finding that, contrary to the biorhythm theory, there seemed to be no relation at all between hitting prowess and biorhythm cycles. The doctor concludes it would make little sense to hold a home run hitter out of a game on a day merely because his cycle was "critical."

A number of major companies are using biorhythm calculations to warn individual workers about critical days on which mishaps might happen, and have reportedly reduced the number of accidents as a result.

HUNDREDS of heavy cigarette smokers in Japan have reportedly quit the habit simply by drinking "quit-smoking tea."

Health authorities in Tokyo insist that the brown-colored liquid which produces a bitter-tasting tea is just another folk remedy. However, they admit they are baffled by studies indicating that four of every 10 smokers who have sipped the brew have been able to become non-smokers.

The name of the potential miracle brew is "Kinen-Cha," which translates literally into "quit-smoking tea." Its main property, according to the tea's makers, is that it makes cigarettes taste so horrible most smokers decide to quit.

The recommended dosage for chain smokers wanting to quit is three cups of tea a day for about a week.

IN Louisiana, a 7-by-5 foot window in the side of the gold and white Point Coupee Funeral Home allows mourners to pay their last respects without leaving their cars.

Said Alvin Verette, president of the funeral home: "We wanted something for working people who didn't have time to dress but wanted to show their condolences and sympathy."

M.B.A. MAGAZINE, which usually devotes its pages to corporate bookkeeping problems and the like, is discussing more down-to-earth affairs.

The magazine is out with a detailed discussion of the U.S. sex-for-hire industry, and concludes that Americans spend around \$9 billion for various illicit sex-related activities.

Reporter Jane Lane writes that New York's 90 massage parlors take in more than \$6 million a year, and that brothel madams prove to be highly skilled business entrepreneurs.

STUDIES at Colgate University in New York suggest you can think better lying down.

Undergraduates placed on mattresses with pillows under their feet but not under their heads computed mathematical assignments 7.4 percent more quickly than they had doing similar tasks sitting up-right at desks.

Their accuracy was said to be 14 percent better in the supine position, too. The Colgate researchers came to the obvious conclusion that, perhaps all employees with problem-solving jobs should be supplied with work beds.

A LONDON scientist reports an extensive computer study has found that there seems to be a connection between a person's personality and his or her astrological birth sign.

Doctor Hans Eysenck of London University says that 2000 volunteers filled out detailed questionnaires about their personality traits and listed their dates of birth.

He says that after all the returns were analyzed by computers, it was found those born under the water signs of Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces tended to be unusually emotional; those born under the odd-numbered signs of Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius and Aquarius tended to be extroverts; while those in the even-numbered signs of Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Capricorn and Pisces were rated as introverts.

Said the admittedly puzzled doctor: "There may be more things in Heaven and Earth than we have dreamt of."

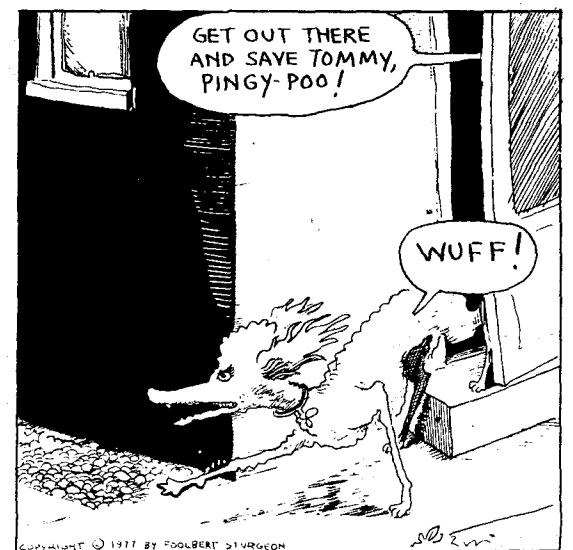
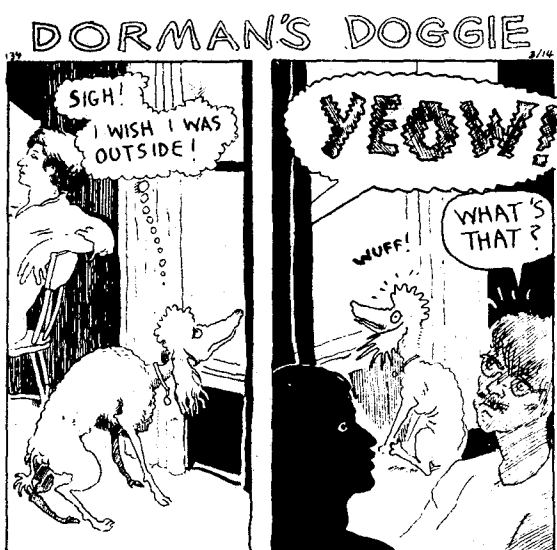
IF the portions of food served at your favorite restaurant seem to have been shrinking in recent months, you're probably not imagining things.

The Wall Street Journal reports that many American eating establishments, in an effort to keep their prices from climbing any higher, have been subtly cutting down on the sizes of these servings offered their patrons.

As an example, one Chicago restaurant still serves cake dessert for a dollar, but an alert diner will note that the slice of pastry is about 25 percent smaller than it was just a few months ago.

Other restaurants questioned by The Journal admitted to cutting down on everything from the number of pieces of chicken in the chicken dinner to the amount of pasta served on the side.

In San Francisco, The Journal notes, a popular Chinese restaurant has maintained the price of won ton soup at the same level by replacing large prawns in the broth with tiny, cheaper shrimp, and by slowly eliminating large chunks of chicken and pork that were once a part of the recipe.







## Really saving energy

NANCY JACOBS

PRODDED by this winter's acute shortage of natural gas, President Carter has promised to make conservation the cornerstone of his energy program, conjuring up images of lower thermostats, less gasoline and life without dishwashers or electric toothbrushes.

But the bulk of America's energy actually is consumed by industry. And some experts believe there is enough waste there that strict industrial conservation measures could cut US energy consumption by 25-50 percent without altering our standard of living.

For evidence, they point to nations like Sweden and West Germany, which maintain standards of living comparable to our own on less than 60 percent of the energy we consume per-capita.

To counter the frequent argument that drastic energy savings in industry would mean fewer jobs, they cite figures from the Ford Foundation Study, "A Time to Choose." That report noted that the top 15 energy-intensive industries — those in which conservation would be most important — consume 45 percent of all energy used by US industry, but account for only 6 percent of our jobs.

Dennis Hayes, former director of the Illinois State Energy Office and author of "Energy: The Case for Conservation," estimates that the US could meet all its new energy needs for the next 25 years simply by turning its waste energy to productive uses.

NANCY JACOBS is associate editor of The Power Line, the newsletter of the Environmental Action Foundation.

Hayes points out that when the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corps. installed a computer system to manage its use of power, its energy consumption dropped 40 percent. During the Arab oil embargo, the city of Los Angeles and the state of Oregon registered similar savings.

Many experts believe that 40 percent savings rate could become an average for American industry. They advocate "energy" audits of all business plants and office buildings, followed by sophisticated management systems to schedule equipment use for maximum efficiency, automatically shut off lights and heat in areas not in use, convert to more efficient forms of power generation and accomplish any number of other across-the-board energy cuts.

Among the areas they pinpoint as conservation gold mines are the following:

- "Cogeneration" of power for industrial plants: Nearly half of all industrial fuel in America is burned to produce steam for one industrial use or another. But little of that steam is then re-used to generate electricity — a process called cogeneration. Instead most plants buy their electricity separately from utilities. But in June, 1975 a report for the National Science Foundation, by Dow Chemical's Industrial Energy Center estimated that by 1985 US industry could meet half its electricity needs by cogeneration, compared to 13 percent today. Dow said such a move would save \$20-\$50 billion worth of new power plants, or 50 large nuclear reactors.

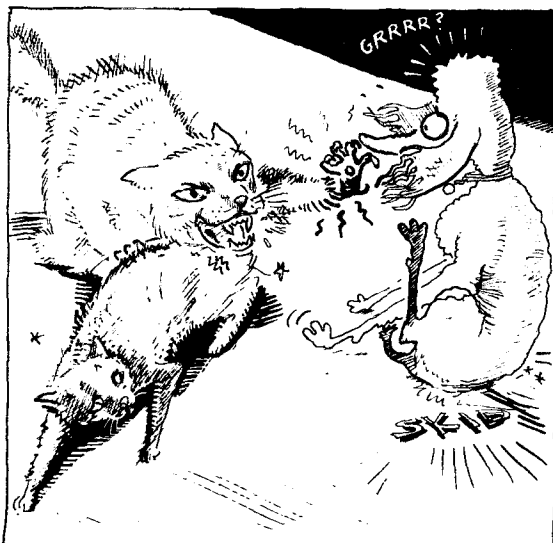
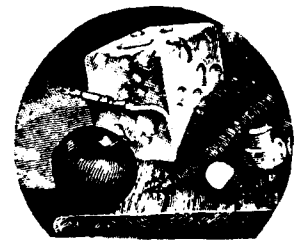
- More energy-efficient construction of office buildings and homes: Commercial and residential buildings now consume 32 percent of the US energy budget. But the American Institute of Architects says

25-30 percent of all energy used in older buildings — and up to 80 percent in newer buildings — is wasted. They attribute major losses to inadequate insulation and inefficient or unnecessary heating, cooling and lighting equipment. Modern office buildings — with poor design, windows that don't open and excessive lighting — are the worst offenders. New York architect Richard Stein has estimated that simply opening the windows in office buildings when temperatures are comfortable would reduce commercial energy use for air conditioning and ventilation by 19 percent. Others have found that energy use for cooling a rectangular highrise building can be reduced by 29 percent if it is built with its broad sides facing north and south, rather than east and west.

- Reversing the trend from gas to the highly inefficient electric heating: According to the private utilities' Edison Electric Institute, 30 percent of all new dwelling units built in 1971 had electric heating. By 1974, the figure had swelled to 47 percent. But utilities burn enough fuel to heat two homes directly for each one they heat electrically. Two-thirds of the fuel they burn in generating the electricity is lost as waste heat and pollution, and more is lost in transmitting and distributing the electricity. The mammoth World Trade Center in New York, perhaps the worst excess of the all-electric binge, uses as much electricity as a city of 100,000.

- Recycling, which if employed on an industrial scale could save billions of dollars worth of energy. According to the Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Co., the largest such firm in the nation, the production of recycled aluminum requires only five percent of the energy necessary to produce an equal amount of the original product. Other studies indicate that the annual energy wasted in the use of throw-away beverage containers — bottles and cans — could provide residential power for a city of 7.5 million.

- Reform of utility rate structures to discourage energy waste: In most states, the more energy a customer uses, the less it costs per unit. Utility reformers have argued for several years that these rate structures, granting 15-35 percent discounts to large users, encourage waste. Citing studies showing that the single most important factor in determining energy demand is price, they contend that equilization of rates for large and small users would force energy-intensive businesses to conserve. How much would all these conservation measures cost in the way of installation and conversion? That's difficult to gauge. But according to the Federal Energy Administration's Roger Sant, "A \$500 billion investment in energy conservation would save about twice as much energy as a comparable investment in new supplies could produce." (Copyright PNS 1977)





# ecoclips

THE quality of the nation's environment slipped perceptibly in 1976, according to the annual assessment of the National Wildlife Federations. The federation's magazine, "National Wildlife," reports that the "environmental quality index" dropped three points from the 1976 level, to 347. The index - down from a high of 406 out of a possible 700 - reflects the relative success of the national effort to improve environmental quality each year.

The federation measured environmental efforts in seven areas and found gains only in air quality and forest preservation. It said the National Park system had deteriorated "to the worst point in history." developments in water pollution control, soil and mineral conservation, open space and wildlife preservation were rated as less successful than in the past.

While substantial gains were credited in air pollution control, the report noted that auto emissions are still on the increase and deterioration of clean-air areas continues. It warned that "the clean air bandwagon shows some signs of running out of gas."

The overall deterioration reflects recent cuts in spending and manpower for environmental enforcement.

RECYCLING of commercial and residential solid wastes hit a two-year low in 1976, according to year-end industry reports.

A NEW STUDY on the costs of decommissioning nuclear power plants says that after retirement, nuclear power facilities may remain hazardous for up to 1.5 million years. And the alternative - physical dismantlement and permanent burial following a long "mothball" period - would add "many tens of millions of dollars. . . to the cost of nuclear power," says the report by the New York Public Interest Research Group, an organization started several years ago by Ralph Nader.

The study, headed by staff scientist Marvin Resnikoff, claims that most radioactive material in reactor vessels and the concrete shields dissipates to harmless levels in ten to 180 years. But some elements, the study says, continue to emit dangerous levels of radiation for 1.56 million years. The average lifespan of a nuclear plant is 40 years.

THE first national survey of environmental enforcement trends concludes that "the positive clean-up trends that have been developing" through 1975 "are on the verge of being overwhelmed by new problems and new regulatory requirements."

The survey, conducted by the Environmental Information Center, a New York research and publishing organization, found that state and federal funding and manpower allocation for environmental enforcement started to decline in 1976. While 4000 new personnel were needed for air pollution enforcement in 1976, says the report, state agencies actually cut 500 positions. Nationwide spending for environmental enforcement declined by \$2.5 million in 1976, despite the Environmental Protection Agency's estimate that an additional \$60 million was needed.

The report, published in *New Engineer*, warns that "If states and federal governments are unwilling to spend the relatively small sums necessary for adequate enforcement" of environmental laws, the nation may soon lose ground in the battle for a clean environment.

SCIENTISTS in Israel says that they have developed an algae which takes just one week to mature, purifies sewage water and can be used as animal feed.

The crop, developed at Israel's Institute of Technology in Haifa, is being grown in municipal sewage water, leaving the water behind pure enough to be used for irrigation. A five-acre tract of algae ponds is currently being used to cleanse the sewage water from a town of 20,000 inhabitants; the algae will then be separated off and fed to fish.

THE renewed attack on chemical pesticides as threats to human health, spurred by Sen. Edward Kennedy's Judiciary subcommittee, has revived a long-standing campaign by some scientists and health experts to go back to fighting bugs with bugs.

"Insect problems have not lessened (under chemical control)," says three University of California-Berkeley entomologists in an upcoming issue of the journal *Bioscience*.

In fact, Drs. Robert van den Bosch, Richard Garcia and Robert Luck conclude, pest problems are actually greater than ever.

Environmental Protection Agency figures back their contention up: 30 years ago, when farmers used 50 million pounds of chemical poisons annually, they lost just seven percent of their preharvest crops. Now, using 600 million pounds of such poisons annually, they suffer an average 13 percent preharvest loss.

One major flaw in the chemical approach, say University of California entomologists Drs. B.B. Huffaker and Ray F. Smith, is that it has just one, inflexible objective - "total and lasting destruction of the pests." And that objective is failing, they told a conference of ecologists.

Of the nearly 500 species of insects that cause damage to crops, in fact, 267 have built up a resistance to chemical poisons, according to US Department of Agriculture statistics.

Consequently, higher and higher amounts of pesticides have become necessary to kill their targets, according to Huffaker and Smith. And an entirely new class of agricultural pests has arisen in the past 20 years.

IF you want to cut your heating bill, don't drain the bathtub.

From the magazine *Catalyst for Environmental Quality*: "You've paid for the B.T.U.'s to heat the water - so let it cool to room temperature, cold to the touch, before draining." The magazine reports that if you don't pull the plug until your bathwater is cold, 10,000 B.T.U.'s of heat will be given off to the air - or enough to keep a well-insulated three bedroom home warm for an hour, when it is 10 degrees above zero outside.

THE Environmental Action Foundation is accusing the nation's power companies of resorting to what it calls "blackout blackmail" as an excuse to boost electricity rates and to build unnecessary power plants.

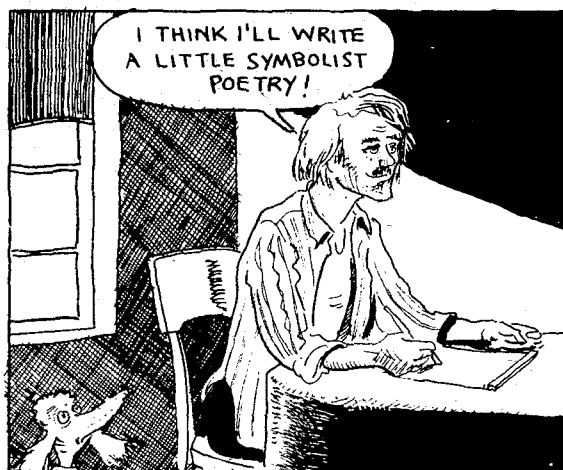
The environmental group says that voltage reductions or "brown-outs" along the East coast are being cited by some utilities as proof of the need for increasing rates and building new plants.

Richard Morgan, a staff economist for the foundation, says that a foundation survey of the power industry has found that recent brownouts were caused, not by a lack of generating capacity, but by temporary cold-induced breakdowns of current equipment.

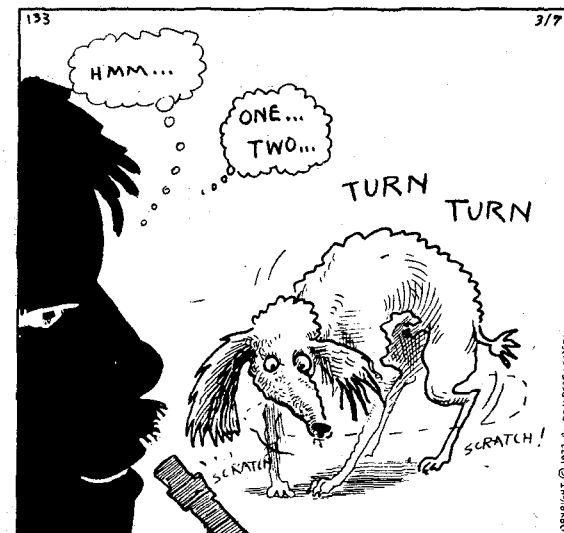
Says Morgan: "The problem for most utilities is too much generating capacity, not too little. Last year the power companies had a generating reserve margin of 35 percent, their largest since 1939." Morgan adds: "That's about twice what they need, and we're paying for those unnecessary power plants in our electric bills."

The foundation claims that higher rates are being sought, in great part, because Americans are conserving more energy than was expected. The group points to figures showing that, during 1976, the increase in peak use was only 3.5 percent instead of the industry's predicted 9.2 percent.

## DORMAN'S DOGGIE



## "The Mystic Circle" by Foolbert Sturgeon





# NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

A MARYLAND psychiatrist contends that "electro-shock treatments," used on an estimated 100,000 mental patients in the United States each year, often cause permanent brain damage.

Doctor Peter Breggin of the Center for the Study of Psychiatry charges that thousands of patients are being permanently maimed by a medical process which no doctor really knows much about.

Breggin says he has completed a detailed study on six electro-shock patients and reviewed 300 scientific reports on the subject. He claims he has found that the process, which involves hooking electrodes to the head and shocking the patient into a state of relaxed unconsciousness, often causes permanent memory gaps.

The treatment is most commonly given to patients who are extremely depressed and suicidal. Advocates of the treatment say it helps a person relax, although they don't know why.

Breggin, however, claims that the method is widely abused, particularly on middle-aged women. Says Breggin: "Middle-aged women are the most frequent victims of every new psychiatric treatment, and instead of treating a woman's depression through normal therapy. . .we're using a device that causes the mutilation of a human being, in the interests of making her more docile."

A GERMAN weekly magazine claims that the Pentagon has a secret contingency plan, code-named "Project Camelot," which calls for "an American blockade of Quebec should the province ever secede" from Canada.

Der Spiegel alleges that the plan exists because Canadian observers and top US military officials fear that Quebec could become another Cuba.

The Der Spiegel article, which was republished in the United States by Atlas World Press Review, says: "One can only speculate how President Carter would react to (Quebec's secession). But for years the Pentagon has maintained a thick file labeled 'Project Camelot.' This secret document sees Canada as a 'danger spot' on a par with Africa and Latin America and calls for an American blockade of Quebec.... should the province ever secede."

THE American Bar Association is offering special legal seminars in Boston and Los Angeles to prepare major corporations for criminal charges against them.

The program teaches corporate lawyers how to handle the defense from the day a crime is discovered to the boss's day in court. The Wall Street Journal reports that the program is based on a fictitious case involving the Moon Oil Corporation and some of its shady dealings, including the payment of bribes to the Grand Duke of Xanadu. That fictitious case ends up in court, ominously enough, in the year 1984.

THE Aerial Phenomena Research Organization alleges that President Carter is already backing off on pre-election statements that he would make public all of the government's secret information about flying saucers.

APRO contends that the alleged government cover-up of UFO information is likely to continue because of Carter's appointment of Harold Brown as the Secretary of Defense. APRO claims that when Brown was the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force during the Johnson administration in the late 1960's, he was instrumental in withholding valid UFO information from the public.

Carter, himself, admitted during the campaign that he had personally seen a UFO. He stated that in Thomaston, Georgia, in 1973, he and about 20 other witnesses watched a cluster of three large lights nearly the size of the full moon - changing color from red to green - move across the sky and then - in Carter's words: "disappear quickly."

MUTUAL funds may soon be used by financial interest groups to enter the agricultural economy, if the IRS approves. The Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust of Chicago recently established a \$50 million "Ag-Land Trust" marketed by Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, and is awaiting an IRS okay. If successful, agricultural mutual funds may soon be on the market for investors seeking to purchase into working farms in units valued at \$100,000. \$100,000 ain't no small scale investment. Funds for small-scale investors may follow.

Representatives Fred Richmond (D-NY) and Richard Nolan (D-Minn) of the House Agriculture Committee have urged postponement of IRS approval of the practice so that a comprehensive analysis of the effects that such trusts might have upon agriculture may be completed. Richmond commented: "The coalescing of major banking, investment and agribusiness interests to purchase and manage large quantities of farm land. . . is a threat to every American family farmer and every American consumer."

A RESEARCHER in the Robert Kennedy assassination case says he has uncovered new evidence indicating that at least two guns were fired during the 1968 assassination of R.F.K. in Los Angeles.

Broadcast journalist Ted Charach claims that tape recordings which were made inside the hotel pantry at the moment Senator Kennedy was hit contain the sounds of at least 10 shots.

Charach, says that four news reporters had their tape recorders operating which Sirhan Sirhan fired shots at the Senator.

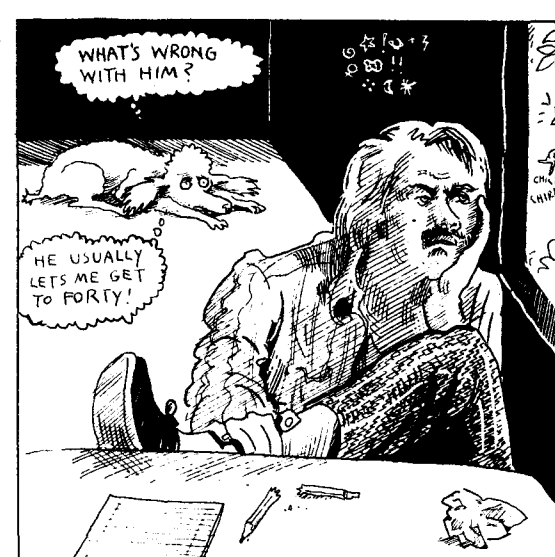
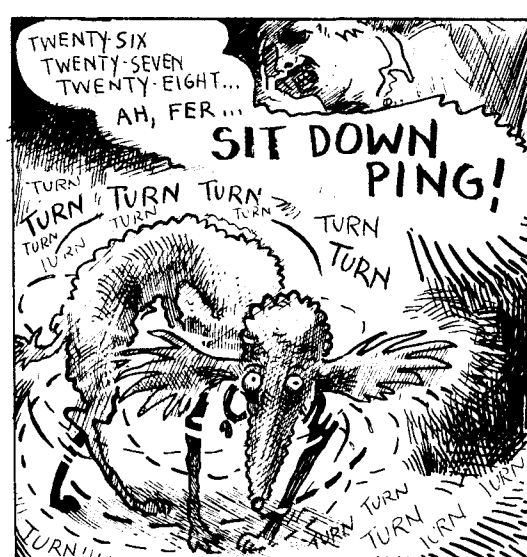
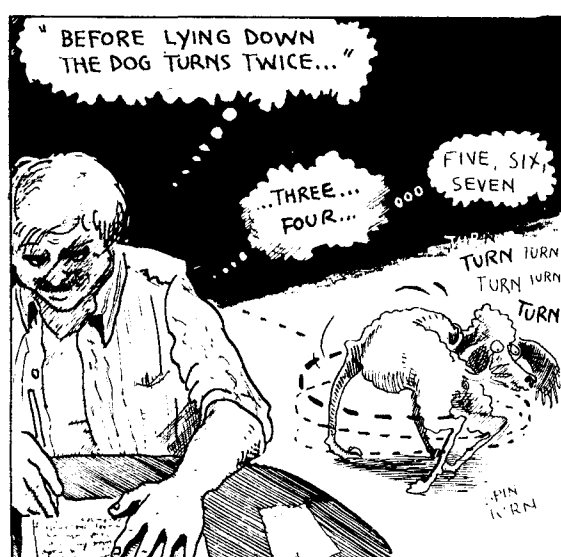
He states that scientific analyses of the tapes by electronics experts at sound laboratories in California, Arizona and New York have concluded that at least 10 distinct shot-like sounds can be heard.

Shirhan's revolver held only eight bullets. Charach contends the additional shots were fired by a second assassin who is still at large. Charach and other critics have previously argued that the number of bullet holes at the murder scene indicated that as many as 12 or even 13 shots were fired during the R.F.K. killing.

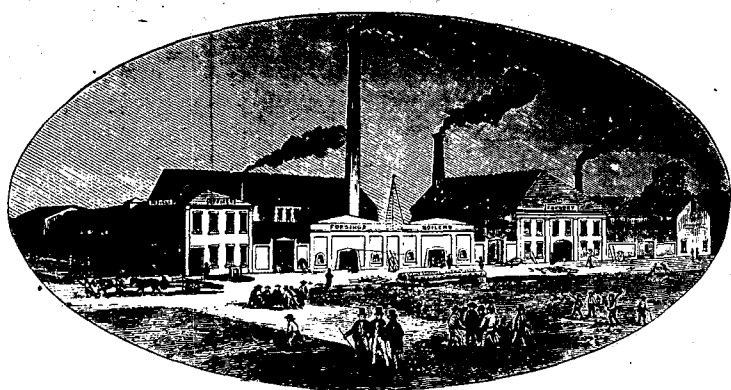
THE National Lawyers Guild has filed a \$15 million damage suit against the FBI, the CIA and 11 other federal agencies - alleging that the government secretly employed a variety of illegal methods in attempts to disrupt and destroy the Lawyers Guild in the early 1970s.

A 26-page complaint, filed by the Guild in a New York Federal court, charges that government informers and provocateurs infiltrated the Guild and burglarized its offices.

The Guild also charges that FBI documents indicate that mere membership in the Lawyers Guild often resulted in members being listed in the FBI's so-called National Security "A-Dex." The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has since revealed that those on the "A-Dex" list were subject to being rounded up and confined without trial in the event of a domestic national emergency.







# idea mill

THE Feb. 21 issue of US News & World Report has an interesting article on the rapid growth of credit unions in this country. Since 1970 installment loans outstanding at credit unions have risen 134%. Says USN&WR: "Credit unions, once a minor part of the financial system, have grown in the past few years to the point where they are now regarded by the nation's banks as dangerous competitors." Credit unions now handle more than 17% of all installment loans.

Credit unions are a form of cooperative and their success should suggest a fruitful course for anti-corporate activists. While many Americans shrink at the mere word "socialist," there is enough of a cooperative tradition here to encourage their acceptance. You can find out more about the cooperative movement in this country by writing the Co-Op League, 1828 L NW (#1100Y, DC 20036).

THERE'S AN EXPERIMENT GOING ON IN BOSTON to use mediation to solve community disputes such as family fights and student-teacher quarrels. Working with a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the non-profit Justice Resource Institute is offering mediation services in conjunction with the Dorchester District Court. Cases are referred by the clerk of the court and the district attorney. In the future, the project may take referrals from the police as well. For information on this project write the Boston Urban Court Project, c/o Brian Callery, 560A Washington Street, Dorchester, Mass. 02124.

MEDICAL researchers in the city of Malmo, in Sweden, have reportedly discovered that a currently available medicine has been extremely effective in treating, and sometimes even curing, advanced cases of cancer.

The Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* identifies the portentous new "wonder drug" as "Cyklokapron," a medicine previously used to treat severe bleeding conditions.

According to the account, a medical team under the direction of Doctor Birger Astedt at the public hospital in Malmo has been administering the drug to patients with advanced cancers, and has encountered amazing results.

*Dagens Nyheter* says the drug apparently stops malignant tumors from spreading by encapsulating them and then by inhibiting the clotting of blood in the growth. The article recounts a number of alleged "hopeless cases" of cancer which were effectively treated by "Cyklokapron."

SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON has introduced a bill that calls for the federal government to set up a series of pilot projects using barnyard manure and crop residues on the nation's farms to produce massive amounts of energy.

"Bio-gas" plants on farms around the country would process manure and crop residues into methane gas. The gas would then replace natural and propane gas now used extensively in agriculture, and would be used to generate electricity, heat buildings, dry crops and do other farm work.

Nelson says energy experts have estimated that methane generated in such plants could supply anywhere from 25 percent to 100 percent of a farm's energy requirements, depending on the farm size, location and other factors. In some cases, farmers could produce surplus energy to sell, Nelson predicts.

"Bio-gas" plants are now used in Algeria, South Africa, Korea, Hungary and India. India reportedly has some 2,500 "bio-gas" farms.

A BILL which would eliminate US military aid to foreign countries for "internal security" reasons has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

According to sponsor Edward Koch of New York, the proposed law is designed to stop the US military from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

Koch, who last year authored a successful amendment which ended military aid to Uruguay because of alleged repression there, charges that many countries receive so-called "internal security" aid which they use against their own citizens.

In particular, Koch cites the US military aid provided to Latin America. According to Koch: "That aid is used against the people of Latin America. In the interests of 'stability' we have helped stabilize the hold military regimes have over their people."

The Koch bill currently has 31 co-sponsors.

A FIVE-YEAR EXPERIMENT in the control of workers by a large Dutch manufacturing plant has ended in the plant's employees increasing company sales by some 30 percent.

The workers at the Breman B.V. Plant not only produce household equipment, they elect their own bosses, share in the profits and genuinely run what is being hailed as Western Europe's most dazzling showcase of industrial democracy.

Under the plan, one-third of all profits are handed directly to the workers; one-third is earmarked for taxes and factory upkeep; and the remaining one-third is passed on to the company's sole shareholders, the Breman family. When losses occur, the profit-sharing is discontinued until the firm is in the black again.

The 530 men and women working at the plant reportedly take home wages averaging ten percent above those paid in similar industries, and have succeeded in raising the company's annual gross from \$6 million to \$20 million in five years.

# artsmedia

THE biggest hit record in China these days is a song attacking Chiang Ching, Mao's widow, entitled "Indignantly condemn the wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao Gang of Four."

The French news agency, Agence France-Presse reports from China that the newest popular recording is sung by a Peking Choral group. Other popular songs from that same album include "Down with the Anti-Party Clique of the Gang of Four;" "Hail the Great Victory of the Crushing of the Anti-Party Clique;" and "Everyone is Rejoicing Over the Wiping Out of the Four Pests."

For those not into the current political struggle, there are always the other top-selling records including "Chairman Hua Kuo-Feng is Right Behind the Poor and Lower-Middle Class Peasants;" and "Chairman Hua, the Fighters of the whole Armed Forces Salute You."

IF you think that prices you're paying for your favorite records and tapes are too high these days, you may not be alone.

Billboard magazine reports that the U.S. Justice Department has launched a major investigation into the methods used by record wholesalers and retailers to set their prices.

The investigation, according to Billboard, is being coordinated by the U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles and is centering around the leading members of the powerful national association of record manufacturers.

According to the report, individual members of the record association have received notices from the Justice Department asking about their specific pricing policies, and warning them they could possibly be subpoenaed for questioning before a federal grand jury in Los Angeles.

In addition, government prosecutors have reportedly asked the association itself to supply the Justice Department with a list of its members and copies of the minutes of its meetings.

Just a month ago, several of the major record companies announced boosts in the prices of their new albums; with some of the individual L.P.'s being increased to \$7.98 each.

A COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY psychologist reports that television advertising may be backfiring by turning American children into a generation of distrusting and suspicious consumers.

Professor Thomas Bever says that a steady dose of t.v. ads seems to be "Permanently distorting children's views of morality, society, and business." He states that in-depth interviews with 48 kids between the ages of 5 and 12 has found that by the time a child reaches the age of 12, he or she finds it easy to believe that all commercials are lies.

Bever adds: "They become ready to believe that, like advertising, business and other institutions are riddled with hypocrisy."



# flotsam & jetsam

MY man Al has come through. Admittedly it took him twenty years, but when you think about it that's a pretty short gestation period for an idea in the mind of a politician.

I always knew my faith in Al Vellucci, mayor of the city of Cambridge, Mass., would prove justified. So when word began filtering south of Vellucci's latest campaign, my heart quickened. This is it. And indeed it was. My man Al had become the first politician to make an issue of one of the most important and underdiscussed questions of our time: should citizens be allowed to exercise control over runaway scientific experimentation or does science have an unlimited right of eminent domain over our lives, our environment and our future?

Al Vellucci decided it was time for a little legislative oversight in Dr. Frankenstein's laboratories, or to be more exact, the laboratories of Harvard University and MIT where, as in a frighteningly large number of other places, research on the mutagenic monster of DNA was underway. Al wasn't the only one concerned. Others, from public interest and environmental groups to scientists just as serious as those playing with the genes, had raised alarming questions about the research and its potential for unleashing new forms of life that we may not be able to understand or control until it is too late.

This is big stuff. Just as big as the Bomb. And as Al himself put it: "What we did in this city council was to cause communities throughout the world to look into this kind of experimentation. I think the City of Cambridge should receive world honors, maybe the Nobel Prize."

What the city council did was to set up a citizen review panel which came up with the proposed restrictions on the research and which stated firmly, "Knowledge, whether for its own sake or for its potential benefits to humankind, cannot serve as a justification for introducing risks to the public unless an informed citizenry is willing to accept those risks."

Al said it more succinctly: "We want to be damned sure the people of Cambridge won't be affected by anything that would crawl out of that laboratory."

Vellucci had tried to get a two year moratorium on the research, but the council only went along with a shorter stay, long enough for the review board to come up with its recommendations. The recommendations fell short of what some concerned about DNA research would have liked and Science magazine reporter Nicolas Wade quotes Cambridge councilor David Clem as saying, "I have a gut feeling that 10 to 15 years from now I am going to regret having worked toward a compromise on this issue, because I think we are stretching our limits of being able to respond in a civilized way to the fruits of knowledge. We are coming fat with all this knowledge, so fat and bloated we may not survive."

I had expected big things of Al, although saving the world was a bit beyond my best hopes. You see, I have a vested interest in him. I helped to create him during my first experience with the random power of the media. He was, you might say, a mutant politician who crawled out of our media laboratory, and I and others had cheerily egged him on, anxious as we were as student journalists to continue our research into recombinant urban affairs.

It was not an unqualified success,

judging from occasional reports I received from Cambridge during the sixties. For Al liked anti-war Harvard students as little as he likes Harvard gene researchers. The fact is, he didn't like Harvard all that much.

That's how it all began. Twenty-one years ago I was a functionary in the news department of WHRB, the Harvard radio station. On the morning of May 9, the Harvard Crimson came out with a story that a Cambridge city councilor, name of Alfred Vellucci, had announced plans to introduce an order asking the city manager to "confiscate" all of the university's lands because of the Harvard administration's "lack of cooperation" in solving the city's parking problems. Vellucci was quoted as saying that "I am going to fine every Harvard student who parks his car on the public street at night unless the university makes all its property available for public parking."

As a moderating voice, the Crimson also quoted fellow councilor, lawyer Charles A. Watson, who said, "Not even the state, let alone the city, can take land away from an educational institution whose corporate franchise is as old as Harvard's."

Down at the radio station, we recognized a good interview when we saw one. A member of the news department was assigned the job of calling Councilor Vellucci and getting a story in time for the 11 p.m. "All the News" show. He got an earful:

"The citizens and taxpayers are sick and tired of supporting Harvard," said Vellucci. "The time has arrived when Cambridge should break away and let the state and federal government support the school. Our taxpayers are not able to do the job alone. . . Our police department has to rush to the university every time the students start one of their foolish riots . . . The fire department has to go in there on school fires. We have to put police officers on extra duty to handle the traffic situation after one of the football games. . . Let the university become a state of its own like the Vatican in Rome and pay for its own fire and police departments." He added: "John Lund, commander of the local Sullivan Post, American Legion, has told me every veterans organization in the city will support my bill."

He went on like that for twenty minutes. We ran excerpts on the 11 p.m. news and the response was electrifying. Student listeners began calling the station demanding to hear the full interview. It was not just the words; the Vellucci voice had a special quality that lent impetus to the message. It was the precise antithesis of a well-cultivated Harvard accent and even at its most irate had a buoyant quality tinged with the faintest hint of satire that in those amusement and issue-starved years of the fifties, tickled the student ear.

We responded to the demands. These were not times when you worried about the impact of the media on events; there were no seminars on TV and violence, no breast-beating over whether the press covered a hostage situation correctly. There was, however, a lot of boredom and whatever else he might be, Al Vellucci was certainly not boring.

We ran the whole interview at midnight and calls from those who tuned in during the middle of it were so numerous that we ran it again at one am. The next morning, the story was page one in the Boston Globe - culled from the WHRB interview - with a two column headline:

Councillor Asks Setup Like Vatican  
DEMANDS HARVARD  
SECEDE FROM CITY

The Crimson had had the Vellucci story first, but in its stately way had missed the exploitation potential, settling for an editorial in which it commented:

"We wonder whether Al understands that

Harvard was chartered before the Commonwealth, and that there is some question which has the right of eminent domain over the other. The university would cherish an eighth House and while a Central Square location may have its disadvantages, we can only urge that the student council vote - perhaps five to four - that the Cambridge City Hall be seized."

It was WHRB's Vatican angle, however, that caught the imagination of Harvard's student body. Some of us, I suspect, also subconsciously recognized in Vellucci a man who, despite his attacks on students, was really waging war on a mutual enemy, the Harvard administration. We all had grievances with it and it would be years before students learned to stand up to their campus oppressors. Vellucci was a prophetic voice, calling for rebellion not just by the citizens of Cambridge against Harvard, but, subliminally, by the students as well.

The Cambridge citizenry kept quiet but not the students. There was no march on city hall, though. It began the next night, as those things often did, with a peculiarly unrelated and insignificant act. During a drunken argument in the offices of the college humor magazine over the relative merits of prose and poetry, someone threw a typewriter out of a window. The riot was on.

Two thousand men of Harvard quickly gathered shouting alternatively, "Hang Vellucci," "Vellucci for Pope," and "We want Monaco." Beer cans and water-filled bags were tossed about. Riots were different then.

Eddie Sullivan, the genial mayor of the city, showed up in his radio and siren-equipped Imperial and attempted to quell the disturbance. He failed to get the attention of the crowd, part of which was busy letting the air out of his tires. Out of one of the dormitories a recording of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" blared forth. The cops sent reinforcements to Al's home but no one strayed from the campus. With what the city would come to realize was his normal tactical brilliance, Al had succeeded in turning Harvard against itself, just as he would twenty years later as Harvard prof debated Harvard prof on the DNA question.

A few students were arrested, a few faced disciplinary action and by one am it was all over. Those of us in the WHRB news department went to sleep content in the knowledge that in twenty-four hours we had helped create a significant media figure and a riot. Not a bad day's work for a few student journalists.

Neither Vellucci nor the student media let the matter drop. Vellucci was back quickly with a proposal to have the city take away the liquor license of the Faculty Club, and the Crimson and the WHRB elevated the city hall to a major beat. For the rest of my time at Harvard, I faithfully covered city council meetings, relaying every juicy quote and snipe at Harvard that Vellucci and his cohorts could provide. My mentors at the presstable were a trio of sardonic and knowledgeable Irishmen from Boston's dailies. And they loved their sotto voce seminars for the student journalists from WHRB and the Crimson during council meetings as much as we enjoyed attending them. The councillors were exceptionally solicitous, especially Al, who quickly recognized our symbiotic relationship.

Mayor Eddie Sullivan gave me a ride in his Imperial and willingly took the time to talk whenever I had questions. Harvard educated lawyer Joseph Deguglielmo, who eschewed bifocals for two pairs of glasses which were stacked on his nose and forehead in the order required by the moment, explained the workings of a city government with great patience, once commenting that he was uncertain how to vote on a police pay increase because he had to keep in mind that each cop was probably making several thousand dollars more a year than his official salary. No maudlin concern over

(Please turn to page 24



## FLOTSAM CONT'D

corruption, but certainly an economic factor to take into account. I went down to Charles Watson's office for the moderate view. And aged, diminutive Hyman Pill smiled benignly at me when I went past his desk. It was a real Sesame Street council.

And it was real Massachusetts legislature, the sort of place where a local leader during a dispute over a contract could turn to Pill and plead, "Look, we're all Christian gentlemen here." And Hyman could just rock back in his chair and smile.

It was not all good, but most of what was bad was right out front. It accepted the view that politics was not religion — neither salvation nor perfection was the goal. It was democracy — making the best of a confused and difficult situation. The members of the city council were ashamed of neither their beliefs nor of their compromises with them.

As I got to see more of city governments I came to realize that the city council of Cambridge was no worse than most and certainly less hypocritical. And you had to admire the flair. When the city failed to clean the streets in Al Velucci's district, he borrowed a large streetsweeper and did it himself.

The Cambridge city council was the best course I took at Harvard. I not only learned about city government but learned that it had a quality that would be unmatched by anything you could find covering the White House or Congress. For in a city, politicians are on their own; they are not actors and actresses performing the lines of speechwriters and bright young staffers. They have to make their own theater and much of the time it is better than anything you find on the controlled and contrived national stage.

I also learned that people like Al Velucci are saying something about the way power is distributed in a city, that their anger is not the rantings of demagogues, but a hyperbolic extension of real concerns. I didn't fully appreciate it then, but I've seen enough of the tyranny and arrogance of large institutions in an urban setting to understand now what Al was talking about.

Perhaps I make too much of it, but you always do with your first love. I lost my political virginity at the Cambridge city council and I can't imagine a better place for it to have happened.

And it couldn't have worked out better, either. I helped Al. He helped me. That's politics. Now he's helping all of us face one of the toughest problems we've got, those things that might crawl out of the laboratory. Thanks, Al.

— SAM SMITH

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